

Real's gift to Chile miners

Real Madrid has sent signed jerseys to the 33 miners who have been trapped underground in Chile and invited them to attend a match at the club's stadium in Spain once they are released. Real officials delivered the jerseys imprinted with the message "be strong miners" along with photo albums of players to Chile's Mining Minister Laurence Golborne, the club said in a statement posted on its website. "It means a lot that an entire country like Spain is following this odyssey that we are going through. I hope the miners are able to enjoy these gifts," the statement quotes Golborne as saying.



-AFP

BOOTERS' TRANSFERS No action on Day 2

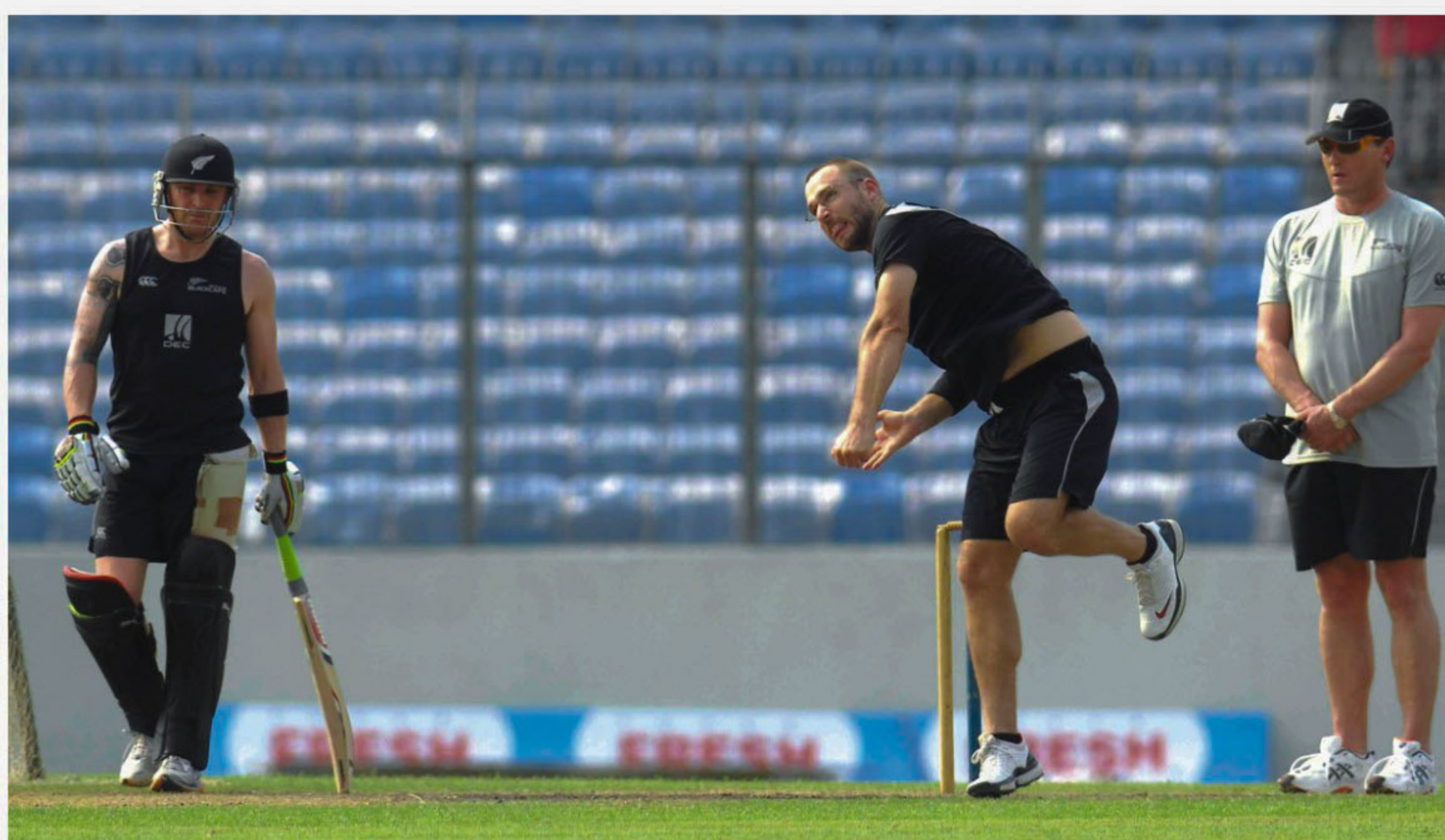
SPORTS REPORTER

The grandeurless opening of the footballers' transfers hit a blank when no clubs appeared to complete the registration formalities on the second day of the official transfers.

On the opening day of Friday though new powerhouse of local football Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club completed the registration of 17 of their 24 players while Arambagh Krira Sangha had 7 out of their 21-member squad registered.

The official transfers will last a week for the local footballers and while it will be fifteen days for the foreign brigade.

This season's transfers was earlier reduced to nothing more than paper work after most of clubs had confirmed roping in their desired players long before the start of the season.



New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori tosses up the ball during the team's centre-wicket session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Rain outscores New Zealand

SPORTS REPORTER



Shane Jurgensen, New Zealand's bowling coach, said that they were disappointed with the situation of going into the five-match one-day series against Bangladesh later this week without a practice game under their belt.

After the first match of October 1 was called off, the second and final warm-up match was also postponed yesterday, as the ground at BKSP is still not fit for play due to rain over the last few days.

"We are a little bit disappointed," he said to reporters yesterday at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

"We would have been happy with one warm-up game but we are still happy with what we got.

"We can't help the weather. We had an idea that it will be wet in this part of the world. Unfortunately cricket is an outdoor sport and these things happen," added the former Australian pacesman Jurgensen.

Just like their tour in October 2008, the New Zealanders will go directly into the one-day series. It spelled disaster last time around when they lost to the hosts by seven wickets.

The visitors were allowed a full net session in the centre wicket at the Mirpur venue after they made the request following the cancellation of the first warm-up game.

"We practiced in the middle wicket, where we will play the game. We are happy with what we have done today.

"I think it's important we get used to the weather because now it's almost ten degrees in New Zealand so we have to get out in the sun and the heat. We have to sweat it out a bit, and the boys are working hard," he informed.

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XIX CWG open today

3-hour show to enthrall millions

ANISUR RAHMAN from New Delhi



The world will get a glimpse of India's great heritage and tradition during a three-hour ceremony when the curtains on the XIX Commonwealth Games will be lifted at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Delhi today.

The opening ceremony featuring light, music, dance, colours and action will enthrall some 60,000 spectators including Indian President Pratibha Patil, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Prince Charles at the big bowl.

The gala ceremony will highlight the rhythms and ragas of the nation where over 7,000 artists drawn from across the

country will perform. The whole ceremony will be divided into seven segments.

After being awarded the biggest games after Olympics in 2003, India has been struck by bitter criticism for their shoddy preparation, 'filthy and un-inhabitant' environment at the Games Village, scare of snakes, dengue fever, bomb attack and collapse of a footover bridge. But leaving all these behind, they are now ready for presenting a spectacular opening ceremony.

The seven segments include rhythm of India, great Indian journey, celebration, yoga, swagatam, Rajasthan puppets and the Knowledge Tree as the nation's famous artists have been preparing for the show in a cantonment under high security.

Nevertheless, India, who hosted the first Asian Games in 1951 and the second in 1982, will be hoping to show something better in the inaugural programme to put behind all criticism to prove that the choice to bring back the Games to Asia after Malaysia hosted it in 1996 was not a wrong one.

However, the Games have already lost some shine after the world's leading athletes like Jamaican sprinters Usain Bolt, Asafa Powell and Shelly-Ann Fraser, Australian swimmer Stephanie Rice, British athlete Christina Ohuruogu, Australian discus thrower Dani Samuels, Britain's triple jumper Phillips Idowu, Scottish cyclist Chris Hoy withdrew from the Games, citing various reasons including security concerns and injuries, thus

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AUSSIE TOUR Lanka include Muralidaran

CRICINFO

Muttiah Muralidaran has been included in the squad for the limited-overs tour of Australia in November as Sri Lanka build their team for the 2011 World Cup. Aravinda de Silva, Sri Lanka's chairman of selectors, said Murali remained an important part of the one-day set up, though he had retired from Tests and didn't play the recent tri-series in Sri Lanka which also involved India and New Zealand.

"Muralidaran is definitely part of our World Cup plans and we have included him to give him some international exposure ahead of the big event," de Silva said. Murali had retired from Tests during the home series against India in July but said he would be available for the World Cup if selected. He recently played an important role in Chennai Super Kings' victory in the Champions League Twenty20 in South Africa.

Suraj Randiv, another off-spinner, was also picked in the 16-man squad but de Silva said only one spinner was likely to play on Australian pitches. "Jeevan Mendis, who bowls leg spin, and Tillakaratne Dilshan's offspin can also be utilised," he said.

The squad has five seamers -- Lasith Malinga, Dilhara Fernando, Nuwan Kulasekara, Dammika Prasad and Thisara Perera -- to suit Australian

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Ticket goes digital

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The ticketing system goes digital for the five-match one-day series between Bangladesh and New Zealand to be held at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur from October 5.

"Ticket will be available in different outlets of Grameenphone and for the first time we have introduced an e-ticketing system which means that fans can now buy ticket through their mobiles. It is similar to how they buy tickets for train journey," informed GS Hassan Tamim, chairman of the ticket and seating committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

BCB has printed less than half its capacity this time because of ongoing renovation work ahead of the 2011 World Cup.

Tamim informed that the official capacity of the stadium - which will host six World Cup matches including two quarterfinals - is 26,000-plus but the BCB have issued only 14,000 tickets for each match of which 2000-3000 will be complimentary.

"For the greater interest, we have to accept some difficulties for the coming series. We have allotted limited seats because there is a safety concern due to renovation work. But the series against Zimbabwe in December would be a dress rehearsal for World Cup," said Tamim.

6000 gallery tickets have been allocated for each match and the price is fixed at Tk 25 while the price for VIP is Tk 1000, International Gallery Tk 200 and Club House (North and South) Tk 100.

Following the first ODI on October 5, the second, third, fourth and fifth matches are scheduled for October 8, October 11, October 14 and October 17 respectively.

Sehwag equals record

Paine takes Aussies to 428



AFP, Mohali

India rode on Virender Sehwag's record-equalling half-century to reach 110-2 in their first innings in reply to Australia's 428 in the opening Test on Saturday.

The Indian opener scored a blazing 59 off 54 balls with 10 fours in the final session after Australian wicketkeeper Tim Paine (92) had missed out on a maiden Test hundred.

Sehwag equalled the record of scoring a 50 or more in 11 consecutive Tests. West Indies' Viv Richards and Indian Gautam Gambhir are the other batsmen to have achieved the feat.

With the pitch offering no help to bowlers, Australia struggled to contain runs as Sehwag went for his shotts from the beginning and raced to his half-century off 38 balls.

Australia introduced spin after 12 overs, but Nathan Hauritz was greeted with two fours by Sehwag, who was eventually caught by Michael Clarke in the covers off a leading edge to become pacesman Mitchell Johnson's second victim.

Wicketkeeper Paine, playing only his third Test, was earlier instrumental in boosting Australia with a solid knock which came off 196 balls with the help of 12 boundaries.

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Vibrant Village

SPORTS REPORTER from New Delhi



The thirty odd nine-storied new buildings surrounded by green on the eastern bank of river Jamuna may look isolated at first glance, but the signs of life will be felt as one gets closer to the Games Village of the 19th Commonwealth Games, which begins in the Indian capital today.

The seemingly sleepy village was given a refreshing boost when the Queen's Baton made a short stay and volunteers around the village rushed to take photos with it.

Before September 23, the buildings in the village spanning an area of 63.5 hectares looked virtually lifeless but now it is full to the brim with some 8000 athletes and officials from 71 nations and territories under the umbrella of the Commonwealth.

The Games Village is also close to the famous temple of Swaminarayan Akshardham, which epitomizes 10,000 years of Indian culture in all its breathtaking grandeur, beauty, wisdom and bliss as well as depicting the magnitude of Indian's ancient architecture.

The villages have been divided into different

zones and the international zone, a common place for all athletes and officials to meet the journalists, includes a salon, souvenir shops, cyber cafe, media center, conference room, disco, and games room.

Athletes from Australia, Sri Lanka, Jamaica and South Africa were seen in the area, which was also frequented, by a number of physically challenged athletes. No Bangladeshi athletes were however, seen in the common zone.

The most attractive part of the international zone though, is the welcome stage which is rolled out for the participating teams and four teams -- Guyana, Lesotho, Cyprus, Malawi and Cook Island -- were given a rousing reception on their arrival yesterday.

There may have been a number of security concerns among the participating teams after threats of a bomb attack but the speaker at the welcome address declared no fear of attacks saying, "You have very tight security and you should feel comfortable during your stay at the Games Village."

After the short speech, a replica of the Queen's Baton was given to the chef de missions of the participating teams and later the school going boys and girls welcomed them by

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PHOTO: AFP

An armed policeman stands guard outside the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi on the eve of the start of the Commonwealth Games that start today. This will be the biggest sporting event in the city since the 1982 Asian Games.

SPORTS POLL
Who is favourite to win the India-Australia Test series?
India 54%
Australia 46%
TOTAL VOTES: 520
TODAY'S QUESTION
What do you think is Bangladesh's advantage against New Zealand?
Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote
Follow The Daily Star Sport on **twitter**
www.twitter.com/dssport

What to WATCH

NEO Cricket
India v Australia
First Test, Day 3
Live from 10:00am

STAR Sports
MotoGP World Championship
Japanese Grand Prix
Live from 9:00am
English Premier League
Liverpool v Blackpool
Live from 7:55pm

ESPN
English Premier League
Man City v Newcastle
Live from 6:25pm
Chelsea v Arsenal
Live from 8:55pm

TEN Action+
Serie A
Lecce v Catania
Live from 4:25pm
Bologna v Sampdoria
Live from 6:55pm
Primera Liga
Barcelona v Mallorca
Live from 10:55pm
Real Madrid v Deportivo
Live from 12:55am (Monday)

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We wish the best for successful celebrations of German Unity and the German National Day

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