AND SKILL

Ponting back for SL ODIs

AFP, Sydney

Captain Ricky Ponting will return to action against Sri Lanka next week as Australia enter final preparations for the Ashes series against England, officials said Tuesday.

Ponting and opening batsman Shane Watson were both named in the 15-man squad for three one-day internationals next week after being rested for the 2-0 limitedovers defeat in India.

Wicketkeeper Brad Haddin and fast bowler Peter Siddle were also included as they continue their recovery from injury. Australia face Sri Lanka on November 3, 5 and 7.

SQUAD

Ricky Ponting (captain), Michael Clarke, Xavier Doherty, Brad Haddin, John Hastings, Nathan Hauritz, Mike Hussey, Mitchell Johnson, Shaun Marsh, Clint McKay, Peter Siddle, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Shane Watson, CamWhite.

Dhoni bats for Raina

PTI, Surat

Indian cricket captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni on Tuesday once again rubbished news reports of Suresh Raina being linked with an associate of a bookie and termed it as "baseless and false".

Cricket

England coach Andy Flower believes the

upcoming Ashes series can help restore some

of cricket's credibility after a scandal-tainted

image during Pakistan's recent tour of England,

with three players suspended after allegedly

plotting to bowl deliberate no balls for cash. All

raised about a series of other matches, has

Australia can provide a showcase for cricket

when the latest installment of their historic

rivalry gets under way with the first Test in

the game, there's no doubt about that," Flower

had in India was an excellent Test series, albeit

series, it should be a great spectacle for people.

Injured strike bowler James Anderson is win-

ning his race to be fit for England's opening

Ashes series Test match in Brisbane next

month, team director Andy Flower revealed

said Anderson was recovering well after crack-

ing a rib during a controversial boxing session

Speaking to journalists in London, Flower

"The second half of the summer was bad for

"But I think the series that Australia have just

With the inevitable scrutiny on an Ashes

"We all have a responsibility to the game to

three Pakistani players deny the allegations.

continued to cast a shadow over the sport.

Brisbane on November 25.

only two matches long.

Cricket

AFP, London

Monday.

Allegations of corruption tarnished cricket's

The saga, which has led to suspicions being

Flower believes however that England and

AFP, London

summer.

said.

"The reports that Raina was spotted with a woman, having links with bookie and that he might be linked with match fixing, are baseless and false," said the Indian skipper, who had earlier also denied the charges.

"Raina is a good player and he can never indulge in such activities. Sri Lanka Cricket, Board of Control for Cricket in India, International Cricket Council and ICC anti-corruption committee have investigated the matter and did not find any proof against Raina," Dhoni, who was here to inaugurate a five-star hotel, told reporters.

Ion-up

FROM PAGE 17

batsmen (Alok Kapali, Nadif Chowduhry and Golam Mabud) while pacer Mohammad Sharif and left-arm spinner Elias Sunny picked up two each. Sylhet's 158 came in 44.1

overs, a target that Dhaka reached easily in 30.4 overs with Mohammad Ashraful slamming a quickfire unbeaten 66. The beleaguered right-hander smashed seven boundaries and two sixes in his 52-ball innings, that would help him ahead of joining the Tigers camp.

BRIEFSCORES

Nur3-33, Elias 2-17).

FROM PAGE 17

for the bankers.

FROM PAGE 17

the meet.

DHAKA: 162 for 3 in 30.4 overs

(Rony 22, Shamsur 50, Ashraful

66 not out; Jayed 1-30, Abul

Hasan 1-22, Kapali 1-12).

Result: Dhaka won by 7 wickets.

Div-I cricket

University Ground, thanks to a

Agrani Bank (228-8)

defeated Gopibagh Friends

Association (108-10) by 120

runs at the City Club Ground.

Humayun topscored with 62

Azad Sporting (104/10) by 58

duckworth-lewis method.

Nat'l swimming

Jahid Ahsan Russell, the chair-

man of the parliamentary

standing committee on Youth

and Sports Ministry. This was

disclosed at a press conference

at National Sports Council

Mahbubur Rahman Shahin,

Bangladesh Swimming Fede-

ration general secretary, infor-

med that they conducted

training sessions across the

country before the champions

and the swimmers would be

able to show their potential in

auditorium yesterday.

Young Pegasus (162/9) beat

Shanaj Ahmed hundred (108).

BARISAL: 252 for five in 50 overs (Faruque 42, Nafees 42, Rokibul 101 not out, Arafat 32, extras 22; Robiul 1-38, Dollar 1-50, Masud 1-26, Halder 1-45). KHULNA: 233 all out in 48.2

overs (Mithun 23, Amit 41, Tushar 98, Sahagir 25; Kamrul 4-43, Monir 2-25, Jabir 1-48, Arafat

with teammates at England's recent training Result: Barisal won by 19 runs. camp in Germany. RAJSHAHI: 281 for six in 50 overs Anderson may even be fit for some of the (Johirul 23, Sabbir 26, Naeem 113 warm-up games leading into the first Test, which not out, Mushfigur 93; Nazmul

gets under way on November 25, Flower said. 3-48, Mahmudul 2-32). "He's already bowling at 75 percent, so he CHITTAGONG: 130 all out in should be fine for the first Test," Flower said.

38.5 overs (Nafis 34, Aftab 30; "More than likely, he'll be okay for two of Saqlain 2-11, Naeem 2-7, Sabbir those warm-up games." 3-13). Anderson was crocked after being hit by a

Result: Rajshahi won by 151 team-mate -- reportedly Chris Tremlett -during an unorthodox training camp that has SYLHET: 158 all out in 46. overs (Sayem 36, Kapali 20, Abul

been criticised as unnecessarily risky so close to the Ashes. Hasan 37, Shaker 23; Sharif 2-26, However, Flower insisted he had no regrets

about the camp.

"No, none at all," he said. "It's was an excellent camp, actually, and I think the players and management that were involved in it did things that they might never have done before in their lives and might never do again, and it was a very healthy experience."

Flower also dismissed description of the

make sure its image is strong and healthy."

Father Benjamin de Costa (C), principal of Notre Dame College, stands with the champion girls at the end of the final of 4th Sunny

Dale Basketball Tournament. Sunny Dale became champions in the girls' group while Maple Leaf became champions in the boys'

R-REGULARITY

-TRUTH FULNESS

TO LOSE

REGULARIT

group of the 16-school meet held at the Dhanmondi Basketball ground on Sunday.

Ashes can restore

credibility: Flower

Anderson fit for Ashes

Flower meanwhile is trying to dampen down the hype surrounding the forthcoming series, where England will attempt to win the Ashes on Australian soil for the first time in more than 20 years.

"It is important for our guys to keep it all in perspective," Flower said. "Beating the Australians, we will have to be at our best to do

"We're willing to take that on and confront it

"But I do ask them to keep things in perspective because I think that's the best way to go about this job. If you don't, you can build it up into something bigger than it is."

Flower said he was hoping to strip away the intimidating mystique of trying to beat Australia on their home soil, instead encouraging his players to look forward to the series as a career highlight.

"I don't think there's anything to be afraid of in Australia," he said.

"It's actually a tour that should be welcomed; it should be one of the highlights of people's cricketing careers, to go on an Ashes tour of Australia.

"That means enjoying the challenges that you face on the field and also enjoying seeing another country, seeing another culture, meeting new people."

"The term 'boot camp' is associated with

Flower meanwhile said he was not con-

Pietersen's attempt to play his way into form

Kevin Pietersen, who has not scored a Test

during a recent stint in South Africa with Natal

also flopped, with the batsman scoring only 36

and a second ball duck during two first-class

Africa; and he's in a very good state of mind

Natal]. Unfortunately, the way the games

panned out, he only got one innings in each

Natal side and I think it would've stood him in

"He's very well; he enjoyed his trip to South

"He didn't get many opportunities [for

"But he did some really good work with the

"He feels good about his cricket; he feels

Flower also tipped Pietersen to respond to

"He wants to make a big contribution and

this is a great stage on which to do it," he said. "I

expect even greater things from him than what

he's done already, so I look forward to seeing

"I don't think he's on the downward trend."

the pressure of playing in an Ashes series.

not part of the plan, but these things happen."

training exercise as a boot camp.

century since March 2009.

ready for the tour," Flower said.

confident going into Australia."

innings.

good stead.

him do that.

punishment in some way," he said.

sue Sun AFP, Lahore

Pakistan cricket authorities said Tuesday they were weighing up legal action against British tabloid The Sun over allegations of spot-fixing after an investigation cleared their players.

The Sun tipped off the

The ICC launched an immediate inquiry, but on October 13 cleared the Pakistan team, corroborative evidence.

"We have been weighing our legal options," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) legal adviser Tafazzul Rizvi told AFP. "According to British law there is a period of one year to charge someone with a defamation

rushed action.

take any hasty decision."

Furious over the decision to man Ijaz Butt accused England players of match-fixing, a threatened legal action.

statement and apologised.

"I might do some stupid things in my time but punishing players -- and over five days -- is not one of them. Obviously, Jim getting injured was in August. cerned by the patchy form of star batsman

playerWahabRiaz.

The ICC suspended Salman Asif and Aamer from all international and national cricket Appeals from Salman and Aamer against their suspensions will be heard by an ICC commissioner in Dubai on October 30 and 31.

ACROSS

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PCB may

International Cricket Council (ICC) that it had evidence that the scoring pattern of Pakistan's innings in The Oval one-day against England on September 17 was pre-arranged with book-

saying they did not find any

Rizvi said there will be no

"We think that The Sun has a case to answer but we will not

launch the inquiry, PCB chaircharge which irked the England and Wales Cricket Board, which demanded an apology and Butt later withdrew his

British newspaper the News of the World separately alleged seven Pakistani players were involved in spot-fixing during the Lord's Test against England

Scotland Yard raided the Pakistan team's hotel, and questioned Test captain Salman Butt, bowlers Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Aamer and

Waqar bucks up boys

Cricket

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Pakistan cricket coach Waqar Younus Tuesday urged his team to get back to winning ways as they begin the build-up to next year's World

"We haven't won anything recently and after a chaotic England tour things are becoming clearer, so if we win against South Africa and then on the New Zealand tour it will be a good build-up for the World Cup," Waqar told report-

Pakistan play two back-to-back Twenty20 matches on Tuesday and Wednesday, before playing five one-day internationals and two Tests -- all against South Africa -- before touring New Zealand.

Their recent tour of England was marred by spot-fixing allegations which led to the suspensions of Test captain Salman Butt and bowlers Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Aamer, who were charged with violating the code of conduct.

The suspensions followed revelations in Britain's News of the World newspaper claiming that the Pakistani players deliberately bowled no-balls during the Lord's Test against England in August. An International Cricket Council (ICC) code

of conduct commission is set to hear appeals against the suspension from Salman and Aamer in Dubai on October 30 and 31. Asif withdrew his appeal last week.

There were also allegations from Pakistan of

spot-fixing during the Oval one-day match against England, but the ICC cleared the team of any wrongdoing after finding no evidence.

Pakistan went down 2-3 in the one-day series, and 3-1 in Tests besides losing both the Twenty20 games on the England tour.

Waqar said he hoped the three players involved in the spot-fixing scandal would be available for the World Cup, starting in February next year and jointly co-hosted by

India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. "I hope they (three suspended players) are available to play, but at this point of time we can only hope because they are three key players and it's never easy to lose your key players,'

saidWaqar, himself a great paceman. "Asif and Aamer had been progressing very well but if they are not available we have replacements in mind and they will step in, like we have three good spinners who will come handy in the World Cup held in the sub-

Waqar said Pakistan will use a combination of youth and experience.

"We have a blend of youth and experience and with Younis Khan coming into the squad against South Africa we have a chance to blend the team and it's always good to have experience backing up the youth," said Waqar.

"We are mindful of the preparations for the World Cup and the team is very much on course," said Waqar who was captain when Pakistan crashed out in the first round of the

Sachin being humble

continent."

Cricket

PTI, New Delhi

The only current cricketer to be named in ESPN Cricinfo's all-timeWorld XI, Indian batting icon Sachin Tendulkar says he finds it "unreal and extraordinary" to be placed alongside legends such as Don Bradman with whom he would have loved to play.

Tendulkar is the only Indian in the team which features four Australians, three West Indians, two Englishmen and a Pakistani.

"It would have been great to play in this dream team, to walk out with Bradman after lunch, or build a partnership with Viv Richards, and talk to Sobers about cricket," Tendulkar told ESPN Cricinfo.

"Just playing and having a conversation with them about cricket. I would have liked to have asked [Jack] Hobbs and [Len] Hutton what it was like to play on uncovered wickets, who were the best bowlers they had faced, and of course, the mental aspect of the game," the 37year-old, who has been in international cricket for over two decades, added.

Tendulkar said he is glad that he played with or watched live nearly 60 per cent of the selected side.

"I played with Malcolm Marshall in county cricket, I played against Viv Richards in an exhibition game, and Lillee bowled to me at the nets at the MRF Pace Academy, when I was 15," he said. "It was such a thrill. I remember I called my

brother and said to him that Dennis Lillee had bowled to me. So to now find myself in this company is unreal. I first met him when I was 12." Pace legend Wasim Akram, the only

Pakistani to have made the elite XI, said it was one of his biggest achievements to be named in the star-studded line-up. "I never thought I would play for Pakistan,

let alone be picked for an all-time World XI like this. It is a very special thing, to be picked by these judges and even more of an honour to be in the same team as guys like Sir Don Bradman, Sir Viv Richards, Sir Garry Sobers, Sachin and the others," he said. "A lot of people ask me who was the best

bowler I ever saw. Imran was great, no doubt, very hardworking and shrewd.

Dennis Lillee I never really saw, but people tell you obviously about how good he was. But when I rate a bowler, I look at how he did around the world, on different pitches in England, the subcontinent and Australia, and Malcolm Marshall, I feel, was the best of the lot," he added. Former Australian wicketkeeper Adam

Gilchrist, who currently plays in the Indian Premier League, said, "to be one of only four Australian players to be chosen is an absolute honour, although I do think there were several other wicketkeepers, like Rod Marsh, Ian Healy, Mark Boucher or Alan Knott, who could have easily been picked ahead of me in this team."

Zim eye Test return

12

15

FROM PAGE 17

western teams since a unity government was formed, Zimbabwe has yet to woo cricket giants like Australia and England.

In August, Cricket Scotland refused to send a team after the British government warned of lack of reforms and a return of rule of law.

The return to Test cricket has drawn support from the likes of former black armband-wearing fast bowler Henry Olonga, but questions remain over how the squad will shape up in the five-day version.

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Morrison

eventually come back to Test cricket. I think the challenge for Zimbabwe is to be able to put together a strong enough team," says leading South Africa cricket writer Colin Bryden.

"Cricket people would probably be very sympathetic towards the cricketers of Zimbabwe but, at the same time, would be concerned they probably wouldn't be highly competitive."

While Zimbabwe's national squad suffered mild losses in Twenty20 matches on a tour to South Africa this month, the three ODIs revealed weak-

19

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16

always that Zimbabwe would nesses that could be brutally exposed at Test level.

> As he watched the New Zealand game, cricket fan Julio Nydam recalled being proud to support Zimbabwe, but also questioned the readiness for Tests.

"Cricket was so popular at one time that the president used to walk across from his home to see us."

Recognisable names -along the likes of former captain and current England coach Andy Flower -- are critical to bring in fans now used to the pace of the Twenty20 and ODI formats, he believes.

26 27

47 48 49

17

Sabuj sends Sk

Sabuj was on the end of few of the attacks and failed to beat the Mukti keeper Biplob from a one-on-one situation in the 68th minute. Four minutes later he drove inches wide of the post. However, the young striker made amends when he beat the former Abahani goalkeeper from eight yards out in the 86th minute to sweep the Sheikh Jamal supporters into celebration.

runs while North Bengal "After the first half, I just told the players that you are al Academy (182/8) edged national players and play your usual game and the boys did just Khelaghar Samaj Kalyan that," said Sheikh Jamal's Serbian coach Zoran Kraljevic after the Samity (135/7) by 11 runs in game.

Muktijoddha coach Maruful Haq believes squandering chances in the first half made the difference in the end.

"We should have taken a three-goal advantage in the first half but all our efforts went in vain. The withdrawal of injured Bukola gave an advantage to Sheikh Jamal too," said Maruf, who had helped Mohammedan win the season's curtain-raising tournament in the last two seasons.

TEAMS

SHEIKH JAMAL DHANMONDI CLUB: Aminul Haque (GK), Dragan Perisic, Ariful Islam (Wali Faisal), Rezaul Karim Reza, Zahid Hasan Emily, Enamul Haq, Nasirul Islam, Zahid Hossain, Shakil Ahmed (Towhidul Alam Sabuj), Atiqur Rahman Meshu and Mamunul Islam. MUKTIJODDHA SANGSAD: Biplob Bhattacherjee (GK), Rajani

Kanta Barman, Firoz Mahmud Titu, Motiur Munna, Mithun Chowdhury (Nasir Chowdhury), Alamu Bukola Olaleken (Zahed Parvez Chowdhury), Alamgir Kabir Rana, Maruf Ahmed, Luciano Theiler, Dami Paul Emmanuel and James Moga. Referee: Abdul Hannan Miron.

Women's college handball

Vigarunnissa Noon School & College, and Eden Girls

Ispahani Girls College 20-1 in the first quarter. Pinky scored eight goals for Viquarunnisa. In the second quarter, Eden (seniors) handed an 11-2 defeat to Central Women's College (juniors) while Eden (juniors) beat Holy Cross College 3-2 in the third quarterfinal.

and the two semifinals will be held today at the same venue.

SPORTS REPORTER

College Senior & Junior teams moved into the semifinals of 13th Delta Life Women's College Handball Tournament winning their respective quarterfinal matches at the Handball Stadium yesterday. Viquarunnisa thrashed

41 Refuge The remaining quarterfinal 43 Tool

expanse 46 Commandeer 50 Tool 55 Shad product 56 Crumbly cheese

44 Vast

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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TEEMIDEAL CACHE ARIL ADAY DECEMBER RAMMAVISAPE PREPAREDICED RINK JAKES RIATASLIM ENSCAMEMBERT L I O N I D E S E G G S C O M P

-European Sorvino 42 51 53 counter-60 glimpse **CRYPTOQUIP**

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C'HH VQZ "ZXN OKDJ CU!" Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER I ACCIDENTALLY GOTTEN CUT ON THE SHEET OF

GLASS, I USED A VERY POTENT PANE RELIEVER. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals L

World Cup in South Africa seven years ago. Pakistan was also ousted in the first round of the last World Cup, held in the West Indies