



Australia first bowler Ryan Harris (R) celebrates after he dismissed Sri Lanka's Thilan Samaraweera on the first day of the second Test at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Reshma brings back bronze

SPORTS REPORTER
Jahura Akhter Reshma won a bronze medal in the 13th Asian Youth Weightlifting Championship in Thailand on Monday. Reshma competed in the 44-kg category, said a Bangladesh Olympic Association press release yesterday.

Novak wants roof at US Open

AFP, New York
World number one Novak Djokovic demanded besieged US Open officials build a roof over one of their showcase courts as tempers boiled over at the rain-hit Grand Slam tournament on Wednesday. Only 15 minutes of action was possible before rain, which had washed out the entire programme on Tuesday, returned to send the likes of Rafael Nadal, Andy Murray and Andy Roddick scurrying off court in anger and frustration. They claimed that officials were putting profits ahead of player safety in a desperate ploy to make up for lost time.

"This is a Grand Slam tournament event with huge revenues, so maybe they should consider a roof in future," said Djokovic. Of the other three Grand Slams, the Australian Open and Wimbledon both have courts with retractable roofs while the French Open will follow suit by 2016. Only the US Open has failed to build a roof with organisers claiming in that it would cost up to 200 million dollars to put a roof over the main Arthur Ashe Stadium which was built in 1997.

Mamatha

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"long-term deal," said Manzur Ahmed, CEO of the BCB yesterday. The BCB went for a foreign coach to make sure the women's team can fulfill the minimum target of finishing in the top six of the 10-team World Cup qualifiers to be held in Bangladesh in November this year. Bangladesh will get ODI status if they can finish among the top six teams and a place in the World Cup proper if they finish among the top four. Mamatha Maben, who had played for India from 1993 to 2005, was very much optimistic about the Bangladesh women's team. "I have seen players in the Asian Games and my observation is that they have the potential. I will try to fine tune their skills rather than working with their techniques as the time is very short," said Mamatha Maben in her first reaction to the reporters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. "It is very important to qualify for the upcoming World Cup but it would not be an easy task at all," she added.

SL bowled out cheaply

Cricket
AFP, Pallekele
Australia took early charge of the second Test after bowling out Sri Lanka for a hugely disappointing 174 soon after tea on the opening day in Pallekele on Thursday. Fast bowler Ryan Harris led the way with three wickets and Trent Copeland, Mitchell Johnson and Nathan Lyon picked up two each in good batting conditions at the Pallekele International Stadium.

Australia, hoping to clinch the three-match series after winning the first Test in Galle by 125 runs, raced to 60 for no loss before bad light ended play 5.2 overs early. Shane Watson returned unbeaten on 36 with six boundaries and Phillip Hughes was on a watchful 23 at stumps. The hosts, electing to bat after winning the toss, never recovered after they lost half the side for 76 by lunch, the top three falling by the eighth over with the score at just 14. Vice-captain Angelo Mathews cracked three sixes and six boundaries in an aggressive 58 to boost the total, but seven batsmen failed to reach double figures. Former captain Kumar Sangakkara chipped in with 48, adding 43 for the fourth wicket with Thilan Samaraweera and 52 for the sixth with Mathews. The elegant left-hander looked set for a major knock when he lost his wicket to part-time bowler Mike Hussey, whose slow-medium delivery was driven to Hughes at short-cover. It was only the third wicket in 61 Tests for Hussey and compounded Sri Lanka's woes on a wicket that had rolled out well in favour of the batsmen. Harris struck the first blow in his second over when he forced Tharanga Paranavitana to edge a catch to wicketkeeper Brad Haddin. It was the second successive duck for the left-handed opener, who had failed to score in the second innings at Galle. Sri Lankan captain Tillakaratne Dilshan

What good will Messi do?

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the names of entire squads of their European club of choice but ask them to name the teams that participate in the Bangladesh League and they will be stumped. Much has been made of poor marketing and infrastructure but ultimately there is a distinct lack of quality that is the one thing that generally attracts fans. This means that football in the country is trapped in a form of vicious cycle. So how can the Messi match help to find a way out of this? Well if the organizers and Kazi Salahuddin is to be believed than this game can provide the right push to the BFF and the other stakeholders to promote the game and thereby bring in the right sponsors who can help bring the game up from the grassroots. But worryingly, promotion has sadly been a weak point for football. Take the case of the Argentina game for example, where the TV rights was not sold to ESPN hence depriving a huge segment of the world a chance to see the teams in action at Dhaka. According to Independent TV, the contractual agreement only stated that they would have to provide feeds to Nigerian and Argentine television. This

Law surprised

FROM PAGE 16
"At the hotel, we're surrounded by press. At the dressing room, we're surrounded by other pressures other than what we have to deal with. The players need some space so that they can gather their thoughts and start planning to go out and play better cricket. Rather than be surrounded by pressure all day everyday. It's unfair in any book. "It wasn't the fact that the players said, 'Come here, you have got to get them out'. I observed what was going on, I spoke to the players and they said, 'If you can get them out, maybe it'll be better for us.' It was a group decision. "I have nothing against the guys that were in the dressing room. They have nothing but the best interests of the players at heart. They didn't realise their presence was putting a lot of pressure on them," explained Law. While he wouldn't have to deal with this issue for at least another year, Law had other major changes coming up, starting with the new captain, who Law believes could be any among six possible players. "There are a lot of

made four when he tried to leave a ball from Copeland which swung back sharply to clip his off-stump. Copeland also removed Mahela Jayawardene in his next over as Hussey dived to his left at gully to pick up a stunning catch. Jayawardene, whose classy century in Galle failed to save Sri Lanka, managed only four this time. Sri Lanka would have lost Sangakkara cheaply, but Shane Watson spilled a catch at first slip off Johnson when the batsman was on 27. Samaraweera was dismissed 20 minutes before lunch, caught behind off Harris for 18, while Prasanna Jayawardene threw away his wicket just before the break. The Sri Lankan wicketkeeper smashed off-spinner Lyon for a six and four, but holed out in the deep off the last ball of the over. Sangakkara's fall in the afternoon session hastened another collapse before Mathews lashed out in the company of the tailenders. Australia made one change from the side that won the first Test, bringing in debutant Shaun Marsh for former captain Ricky Ponting, who has returned home for the birth of his second child. The left-hander received his baggy green Australian cap before the start of play from his father, Geoff Marsh, a former opening batsman who played 50 Tests and 117 one-dayers before retiring in 1992. Sri Lanka included leg-spinner Seekkuge Prasanna for his maiden Test match after both Rangana Herath and Ajantha Mendis were ruled out with injuries. Herath, who bagged a five-wicket haul in Galle, injured a finger in practice, while Mendis woke up on Thursday with a back strain.

SCORES IN BRIEF
SRI LANKA: First innings 174 (Sangakkara 48, Samaraweera 17, Jayawardene 18, Mathews 58; Harris 3-38, Copeland 2-24, Johnson 2-48, Lyon 2-41)
AUSTRALIA: First innings 60 for no loss at stumps (Watson 36 not out, Hughes 23 not out)

meant that unlike the India game, which was telecast to all parts of the world, this game was only seen by the people of the participating nations. This then goes completely against the idea of promoting Bangladesh as an able location for future friendly internationals. But the marketing failure was not just restricted to that end. Promotional material for this game seemed immensely hard to come by with only a few stand banners and billboards proclaiming the arrival of Argentina. As such ticket sales also suffered. But the hope is that the BFF will learn from these mistakes and the fact that they have managed to pull off a game of this calibre will provide a fresh impetus to help them attract more sponsors into the game. This then, will help to develop a youth structure, improve facilities and coaching standards at all levels. But the BFF have to be quick. While the fallout from this game will keep people interested for the near future if this cannot be properly harnessed and channelled than football will soon return to its secondary status behind cricket and struggle for any form of recognition.

good players, good minds and passion for the game and country. I think you could choose any one of six people to do that job," said Law. Shakib and Tamim, removed from their posts as there had been reports of indiscipline surrounding them and questions raised about their lack of involvement with their teammates but Law has a different opinion regarding the issue. "I've observed that the Bangladesh dressing-room is no different than any other I've been involved in. Captain and vice-captain are basically the leaders of the group. They have the respect of the players and they dish out their respect as well. "What you guys have been told and what is being reported is far from the truth about what's going on inside the dressing room. From what I've seen, they are a very disciplined bunch of boys. They enjoy a good time and they're allowed to. We're dealing with very young men in that dressing room and they should be given their chance to grow up," explained the Australian adding that Shakib has done good job as a captain.

Pakistan win a thriller

Cricket
AFP, Bulawayo

Pakistan scrambled a five-run victory over Zimbabwe at Queens Sports Club in the first of three one-day internationals here on Thursday. That was the official result, but the reality is that Zimbabwe lost it in the final over when they needed 12 runs to win but made only seven. It could hardly have been closer as both sides struggled against good and varied bowling all day. Winning the toss, Pakistan went into bat first and made 247 runs, somewhat below their expectations on a slow but reliable batting wicket. Zimbabwe, losing fewer wickets in the early stages, looked to have it wrapped up during the middle period. But two excellent overs from Saeed Ajmal in the latter critical stages that conceded only five runs left Zimbabwe with too much to do. The story is told by Zimbabwe's final run-in.

They needed 125 runs from 20 overs, 74 from 10 overs, 42 from 40 balls, when they appeared to have the match well in hand, 25 from 18 balls, 22 from 12 and finally 12 from the last six. Elton Chigumbura, returning from a knee injury, was going well in the final stages but just could not get the runs needed at the end. Pakistan lost Imrun Farhat in the first over of the day but Younis Khan struck 78 in 72 balls to steady the tourists. Misbah ul-Haq weighed in with 54 in a partnership of 60 for the fourth wicket. The Akmal brothers, Umar and Adnan, made 36 and 27 respectively but Adnan's wild and fruitless swipes cost Pakistan quite a few runs. Their 247-7 total did not seem to be enough and the Pakistanis were certainly stifled in general by consistent Zimbabwe bowling, which was mainly spin and medium pace. For Zimbabwe, in reply Vusi Sibanda made 73 but the main per-

former for the home team was Brendan Taylor with 84, recovering from a run of low scores. Tatenda Taibu made 26 in his usual brisk manner and Chigumbura, who might have become match-winner with big hitting early on, could not maintain the necessary momentum. Aizaz Cheema was the most successful bowler with 3-36 and it was he who saw Pakistan through in the end by conceding just five runs in the final over. Man-of-the-match was named as Younis Khan. The Pakistan tour now moves to Harare for the remaining two ODIs and two Twenty20 matches.

SCORES IN BRIEF
PAKISTAN: 247 for 7 (Hafeez 26, Younis 78, Misbah 54, U Akmal 36, A Akmal 27, Tanveer 17 not out; Mpofo 2-54, Price 2-39)
ZIMBABWE: 242 for 7 (Sibanda 73, Taylor 84, Taibu 26, Chigumbura 24; Cheema 3-36)
Result: Pakistan won by five runs.
Man-of-the-match: Younis Khan.

More rain at US Open

AFP, New York
Rafael Nadal claimed players' safety was being put at risk by cash-conscious US Open chiefs trying to rescue the rain-hit event which suffered a virtual washout for the second successive day on Wednesday. Only 15 minutes of play was possible after all of Tuesday was lost to torrential downpours, the first such full-day wipeout since 2006. The deluge left defending champion Nadal stuck at the fourth round stage and facing having to play four days in succession if he was to win Sunday's final. Nadal was furious that he was forced to start his last-16 match against Luxembourg's Gilles Muller on a damp Arthur Ashe Stadium and, along with Andy Murray and Andy Roddick, complained to tournament referee Brian Earley. Their fourth round matches lasted just 15 minutes in early afternoon before they were hauled off as more downpours soaked Flushing Meadows. Five hours later, all four remaining last-16 matches and two scheduled quarterfinals were cancelled and moved to Thursday as the prospect of a Monday men's final for a fourth successive year edged closer. Officials then had to cancel their ambitious plans to complete the four women's quarterfinals when more rain appeared just after three-time champion Serena Williams and Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova had finished warming-up on Ashe.

Oval ODI today

Cricket
AFP, London

England batsman Ravi Bopara has set his sights on piling on the agony for India in a bid to cement his spot in Alastair Cook's one-day team. Although Bopara has 61 one-day international caps, his inconsistent form means he has never been able to nail down a place in England's squad and the last three matches of the limited-overs series against the beleaguered Indians offers a golden opportunity to do just that. Bopara has only scored five half-centuries for England, with an average of just over 28, yet an injury to Eoin Morgan and Kevin Pietersen's rest period means the Essex star is still firmly in captain Cook's plans. Morgan took Bopara's place in the Test team against Sri Lanka earlier this year, but he is out of the rest of the one-day series and the 26-year-old knows he must take advantage, starting in the third match at The Oval on Friday. Bopara, who made 24 in a 60-run stand with Cook to help England win the second one-dayer on Tuesday, said: "I was a bit surprised Eoin was not fit, but nevertheless I was told early enough and was given time to prepare. "I've not been told I will definitely play the rest of the series, but obviously I'd like to play and fight for that spot. "It's a great chance to make it into the first XI and then perform and cement a place in the side. "It's a great chance, with guys resting and a few injuries about. There is a great opportunity to cement my place." While Bopara hopes to take his chance, the real dangers to world champions India could be Cook and Craig Kieswetter. England appeared to face a tough target on Tuesday after Ajingli Rahane and Suresh Raina had powered India to 187 for eight in a match reduced by rain to 23 overs per side under the Rose Bowl lights. But openers Kieswetter and Cook raced to 67 in under seven overs to send Mahendra Singh Dhoni's tourists crashing to yet another defeat after a 4-0 rout in the Test series and a loss in the lone Twenty20 international. Bopara was impressed with England's

poise under pressure as they chased down the target and he added "The way we went about our business was unbelievable, especially some of the batters. "I thought the way our batters went about chasing it was spot on. "When I went in we obviously needed a few runs, and it was important I got a partnership going with Cookie. "The most important thing was to keep our concentration on a pretty good wicket. We looked to be fairly positive and keep the bowlers under pressure." India's prowess in one-day matches has been unquestioned in recent years, but the draining effects of a miserable tour to England have left them vulnerable even in the short form of the game. A host of injuries has decimated the squad, with Sachin Tendulkar the eighth Indian to be ruled out of the series after the batsman suffered a toe problem before the second game. Skipper Dhoni admits he has few options left to freshen up a team low on morale and energy. "We only have specialist bowlers left, which would mean going a batter light, and that is not something we are comfortable with," Dhoni said. "We need the extra batsman because most of our batsmen play aggressive cricket. "We try to come up with plans that may work, but not much has worked so far for us."

It's just

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An uninterrupted domestic season is on the cards as after the SAFF Championship in December this year, there is virtually no international engagement for the national team in the horizon for 2012, although the Bangladesh League champions Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club are supposed to take part in the AFC President's Cup from May 3-13 next year. The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) is also set to introduce a new tournament involving national U-22 teams of different countries but it is still not decided whether Bangladesh take will take part in that tournament to be held in July next year.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
1 Mary's pet
5 Sleep-wear, for short
8 Commo-tions
12 Brit's exclamation
13 Debtor's letters
14 Domes-ticate
15 Made moist
17 Send forth
18 Lance
19 Crouches
21 Line of fashion?
24 Boom times
25 Auction actions
28 Asian desert
30 Animation frame
33 Historic time
34 Bolivian city
35 Guitar's cousin
36 Jewel
37 War god
- DOWN**
1 Covers
2 Now, on a memo
3 Jerry Herman musical
4 Circum-vent
5 Wrestling win
6 Scarborough of MSNBC
7 Lather
8 Enjoyed thoroughly
9 Syrian city
10 Leave out
11 Collec-tions
16 Before
- 20** Class-room surprise
22 Culture medium
23 Segway alternative
25 Plead
26 Rage
27 Harmful
29 Diamond corner
31 — out a living
32 Meadow
34 Dalai —
38 Iraq War helicopter
40 Nome dome home
42 Id counterpart
43 Cincinnati team
44 1960s singer
45 Rim
47 Run away
48 Topped
49 Catch sight of
52 Massachusetts cape
53 Pie filling?

Solution time: 21 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

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E Q X M N Q K S N V Q K S N .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DO YOU THINK A FOPPISH PERSON WORKING OUT AT MANY FITNESS CLUBS WOULD BE CALLED A GYM-DANDY?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals H