Keith served a different cup of tea

AFP, *Dubai*

Former Everton and Aberdeen football chief executive Keith Wyness was on Friday handed the imposing job of trying to convert the United States to Twenty20 cricket.

The 54-year-old will be responsible for the delivery of a business plan which will include the sale of Twenty20 franchises for a league planned to start in the summer of 2013, Cricket Holdings America LLC (CHALLC) announced.

Wyness has extensive experience in managing the business of elite-level sport, having worked on the Sydney Olympics of 2000 and as the chief executive of English Premier League club Everton and Aberdeen in Scotland.

"I am delighted to take up the role of Chief Executive Officer of Cricket Holdings America," said Wyness.

"It is very rare for an opportunity as exciting as this to come along within sport, to have a clean page to develop what I believe will become a major sport in the USA.

"Cricket is already the second biggest sport in the world and the USA is the biggest commercial market for sport. My role is to marry those two factors together and there is plenty of potential and opportunity to do that."

"Cricket is already played extensively across the United States with close to 50,000 regular players and it is the world's second biggest consumer of internet cricket behind India."

India to select Asia Cup side February 29

PTI, *Mumbai*

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) selection committee meeting to pick the team for the Asia Cup has been preponed by a day to February 29.

The women's selection committee will also meet the same day to pick the team for the home ODI and Twenty20 series against Australia starting March 12.

"The meetings of the All-India Senior Selection Committee and All-India Women's Selection Committee, to pick the Indian teams for the Asia Cup and the home series against Australia respectively, will be held at the Cricket Centre, Mumbai, on Wednesday, February 29 instead of March 1," BCCI Secretary Sanjay Jagdale said in a statement.

In the backdrop of the team's poor display in the ongoing tour of Australia, it remains to be seen how many members of the squad presently Down Under are retained for the Asia Cup to be held in Dhaka from March 11-22.

India are to clash with Sri Lanka in their opening match of the tournament on March 13. The other two teams in the fray are Pakistan and hosts Bangladesh.

Prince wins

FROM PAGE 16

between national team players Hasan Jubayer Niloy and Pushkor Khisha ended at the back of the Army net as Niloy finished it off with a cool reverse hit. Abahani were lucky to go for the breather with a one-goal advantage as Army's Sabbir hit the woodwork in the 32nd minute.

The second half saw Abahani play for possession and despite all the attacking from Army, the scoreline remained unchanged as the Sky Blues claimed the trophy.

Apart from the trophy, Abahani were awarded Tk 25,000 while runners-up Army grabbed Tk 15,000. Player of the tournament Prince gathered a cheque of Tk 5,000 for his exploits.

PHOTO: AFP

South Africa captain AB de Villiers flicks the ball away to the leg-side in the first ODI against New Zealand at the Westpac Stadium in Wellington yesterday.

AB ton propels SA

Cricket

AFP, *Wellington*

South Africa captain AB de Villiers compiled a superb century to lead his side to an easy six-wicket win over New Zealand in the opening one-day international at Westpac Stadium on Saturday.

De Villiers, in deft touch, was not out on 106 with Faf du Plessis on 66 as South Africa overhauled New Zealand's 253 for nine with 28 balls to spare.

On a ground with a history of favouring the side batting second, New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum won the toss, elected to bat first and never seriously threatened from there as his batsmen failed to gain momentum.

Although the target was not immense, South Africa wavered at the start of their innings with Hashim Amla (8), Graeme Smith (9) and Jacques Kallis (13) falling in quick succession to be 35 for three by the 10th over.

But from there de Villiers steadied the run chase and they slowly and surely reeled in the New Zealand total although the South African captain played down the comprehensive nature of the win.

McCullum said he had "no regrets" about batting first but "they kept picking up wickets at regular times against us and we couldn't get that partnership we needed. The way AB came out certainly took the game away from us."

De Villiers combined with JP Duminy (46) in a 90-run stand for the fourth wicket which was broken when Rob Nicol tossed up a full delivery and was rewarded with a simple caught and bowled opportunity.

South Africa were then 125 for four in the 31st over when Faf de Plessis joined his skipper and they dismantled the New Zealand bowling attack with apparent ease, compiling 129 runs over the next 14 overs.

They poked and prodded for singles when the field was spread and then effortlessly found the boundary when the fielders were brought in.

De Villiers came to the wicket in the fifth over with South Africa at 17 for two and faced 151 balls for his 106 which included three fours and four sixes.

He reached his century with a single off Doug Bracewell at the start of the 44th over and du Plessis marked the occasion with a six and two fours off the next three balls. Du Plessis' 66 in 72 balls included nine fours and a six.

The New Zealand innings was built around a 79-run stand by McCullum and Kane Williamson for the third wicket after the hosts had started slowly, creeping to 75 for two in the first 20 overs.

The next 75 runs took less than 13 overs but the loss of McCullum, and the quick departure of big-hitting Jesse Ryder (6) soon after put the brakes on the New Zealand charge.

McCullum had a charmed life and was saved three times by television replays on his way to 56 off 67 balls.

Williamson, who was content to look for the singles, appeared intent on batting through the innings and reached his 55 in 69 balls when he an uncharacteristic slash at Lonwabo Tsotsobe had him caught behind.

Opener Rob Nicol made 30 while James Franklin added 32 in the middle of the innings.

Tsotsobe was the most economical of the South African bowlers with two for 41 and Peterson and Kallis both finished with two for 45. The second match in the series is in Napier on Wednesday.

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND

Nicol c Kallis b Peterson	30
Guptill c de Villiers b Tsotsobe	7
B McCullum c Peterson b Kallis	56
Williamson c de Villiers b Tsotsobe	55
Ryder c Smith b Kallis	6
Franklin c Amla b M Morkel	32
Ellis b Steyn	20
N McCullum b M Morkel	15
Bracewell st de Villiers b Peterson	0
Mills not out	4
Southee not out	4
Extras: (b-4, lb-10, w-7, nb-3)	24
Total: (For 9 wkts in 50 overs)	253

Fall of wickets: 1-25, 2-58, 3-137, 4-153, 5-194, 6-211, 7-230, 8-234, 9-249

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Tsotsobe	10	1	41	2
M Morkel	9	0	49	2
Steyn	9	0	37	1
Peterson	10	1	45	2
Duminy	5	0	22	0
Kallis	7	0	45	2

SOUTH AFRICA

Amla b Southee	8
Smith c Ryder b Mills	9
Kallis c Williamson b Bracewell	13
Duminy c and b Nicol	46
De Villiers not out	106
Du Plessis not out	66
Extras: (lb-1, w-5)	6
Total: (For 4 wkts in 45.2 overs)	254

Did not bat: A Morkel, Peterson, Steyn, M Morkel, Tsotsobe

Fall of wickets 1-17, 2-17, 3-35, 4-125

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mills	7	0	27	1
Southee	10	0	64	1
Bracewell	10	1	61	1
N McCullum	7	0	25	0
Nicol	5	0	43	1
Ellis	5	0	26	0
Franklin	1	0	5	0

MS to take 3 openers

Must win match against Aus today

PTI, *Sydney*

Faced with a do-or-die situation, India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni is all set to field his three regular openers rather than experiment with a pinch hitter at the top of the order in Sunday's crucial tri-series one-dayer against Australia in Sydney.

"We have three genuine, proper openers. I see no good reason why I should send in a pinch-hitter. All three score at a brisk pace, they are good at hitting boundaries as well asin taking singles."

"There is no requirement of a pinch hitter when all three are playing," said Dhoni, indicating the rotation policy is as good as over for the rest of the tournament.

With only two more league matches to go, a defeat for India would leave them just a solitary match against Sri Lanka and a must-win with a bonus point situation.

Bolt delays further

AFP, *Kingston*

Usain Bolt has pulled out of Saturday's Gibson Relays, another delay to the start of a 2012 campaign pointed toward his defence of his Olympic sprint titles in London.

"Due to Usain's unscheduled trip [to Europe] which resulted in his training disruption the coach, Glen Mills, has decided that Usain will not take part in the Gibson Relays," Bolt's camp said in a one-line release.

It's the second local meeting Bolt will miss this month after he had left the island days prior to his traditional opener, the Camperdown Classic, two weeks ago.

Bolt, the reigning 100m and 200m Olympic champion, was slated to race a 400m at the low-key Camperdown meeting, but was seen in Germany where he reportedly went to see renowned sport medicine doctor Hans-Wilhelm Müller-Wohlfahrt.

Bolt, however, has downplayed rumours of an injury and reported up to last Sunday that he was fine.

Meet organisers in Europe said this month that Bolt will open his pre-Olympic season in Europe competing in the Golden Spike event in the eastern Czech city of Ostrava on May 25.

He will then compete in Rome on May 31, and in the Oslo Diamond League meeting on June 7.

'Selectors fear Sachin'

Cricket

PTI, *Melbourne*

Former Australia batsman Dean Jones has said that Sachin Tendulkar looks tired of one-day cricket but no selector has the courage to tell him to retire from the 50-over format.

"Father time waits for no one, including cricketing greats Ricky Ponting and Sachin Tendulkar. Both players are looking tired of the 50-over format of the game and this week enough was enough for the Australian selectors, who dropped Ponting from the one-day squad," Jones said.

"India, on the other hand, has no selector with the courage to tell Tendulkar his one-day career is over, no matter how badly he might be playing. People are worried their homes could be damaged if they are seen to have removed Tendulkar against his will. He will keep playing for as long as he likes and thus lies the problem for India," Jones wrote in his column for Sydney Morning Herald.

Describing Tendulkar as the greatest ODI player of all time, Jones added that another reason for not telling the iconic batsman to retire was the fear that sponsors might pull out of the game.

"Ponting and Tendulkar are massive 'brands' in their own right. If you kill off their careers too early, potential sponsors will pull out of cricket on a national basis, particularly in India. Tendulkar has also been great in ODI cricket -- in fact he may be the greatest one-day batsman of all time. He has averaged winning one man-of-the-match award in every seven ODIs, proving his dominance over a 458-game ODI career," he said.

"Indian vultures are starting to appear above Tendulkar's head, but who will have the courage to end his career? He is looking in average form and is consistently putting his team under the pump with some poor dismissals of late at the top of the order.

"Mind you, it was only a year ago that he made an unbeaten 200 in ODI cricket. How time flies, with the great man looking vulnerable facing the two new white balls on bouncing Australian pitches," Jones wrote.

The Australian added that with so much money in cricket today, many players would want to play as long as possible.

"Let's be honest just for a minute. Players of today realise there is a huge amount of money to be earned in cricket and they will play for as long as possible to reap every cent. These guys will play until they are 50 if they are allowed to.

"The penny has finally dropped as cricket boards around the world are realising this. They are also concerned at when is the best and right time to retire star players. The responses from fans and sponsors are unpredictable when they retire a player 'too early'," the former batsman said.

Isner bites the dust

Tennis

AFP, *Memphis*

Top seeded American John Isner was sent crashing out of the ATP and WTA Memphis Open after losing to Austrian Jurgen Melzer 6-3, 7-6 (8/6) in a quarterfinal match Friday.

Isner, who hammered 48 aces in his first two matches in Memphis, fired 11 aces against Melzer in the 81 minute match at the 1.1-million-dollar indoor hardcourt tournament at The Racquet Club of Memphis.

Besides Melzer, hard-serving Canadian Milos Raonic, Czech Radek Stepanek and Benjamin Becker of Germany also reached the semis on Friday.

In the tie break, Melzer had a double fault to hand Isner a set point, but the Austrian battled back to win the final three points of the set.

Isner, who is ranked 13th in the world, also had two double faults and won just 67 percent of his first-serve points.

Melzer won 80 per cent of his first-serve points, had seven aces and saved both of his break point chances.

Third seeded Stepanek also cruised into the semis surviving a first-set tie break then dominating the second set to beat Sam Querrey 7-6 (7/5), 6-0. Stepanek will face Melzer in the semis.

Fourth seed Raonic put on an impressive serving display, hammering 26 aces en route to a 6-3, 7-6 (7/3) win over Belgium's Olivier Rochus.

He will next meet Becker who defeated Poland's Lukasz Kubot 7-5, 7-6 (7/5) in a night session quarterfinal match.

On the women's side of the draw, fourth seeded Marina Erakovic of New Zealand and Sweden's Sofia Arvidsson will meet in the final after winning their semifinal matches on Friday.

Erakovic outlasted Russia's Vera Dushevina 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 and Arvidsson eased past Alberta Brianti, of Italy, 6-3, 7-5.

PHOTO: STAR

Triumphant Abahani players celebrate with the trophy of the Exim Bank-Nurjahan Group Shahid Smriti Hockey Competition after beating Bangladesh Army 3-2 in the final at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Explosive Pollard

FROM PAGE 16

Barisal skipper Brad Hodge said that their total was 15 runs short.

Barisal rode on Shehzad's 39-ball 51 that contained seven fours to score 156 runs for six wickets. They however missed a chance to set a challenging total for their opponents mainly because of a lack of power from Mohammad Mithun (24 not out in 24 balls) and Rameez Raja (17 off 14 balls).

It was also a little surprising to see the team think-tank send Kabir Ali ahead of Mominul Haque, who was the hero in the last match during his team's four-wicket victory against Khulna Royal Bengals in Chittagong.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BARISAL: 156-6 in 20 overs (Hodge 23, Shehzad 51, Mustard 33, Mithun 24 not out, Rameez 17; Naved-ul Hasan 2-22)
DHAKA: 160-5 in 18.2 overs (Imran 65, Mahmood 42, Pollard 35 not out; Kabir 2-18, Shuvo 2-26)
Result: Dhaka Gladiators won by five wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Imran Nazir.

Div-II football

SPORTS REPORTER

Friends Social Welfare Organization and Bashabo Tarun Sangha shared points in the Destiny Group Dhaka Metropolis 2nd Division Football League as the match ended in a goalless draw at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Friends SWO are now on top of the points table of group B with 12 points from six matches while Bashabo TS remain in fourth place with 11 points from the same number of matches.

Amir proves his point

FROM PAGE 16

you did in the 5000 metres and don't think of anything else'."

Meanwhile, the complaint which Amir lodged for a review of his run in the 5000m was being undertaken by the Bangladesh Athletics Federation. Even the coach of Army team, Kitab Ali, who had said the previous day that 'Amir surely ran a lap less' took a U-turn on his comment as he yesterday opined that 'Amir has the ability to win the 5000m gold'. The acting general secretary of the federation Manzur Morshed said if Amir's claim was proved right, he will be declared the winner and measures will be taken against those who were at fault.

Meanwhile, on the second day of the meet no new records were set as Army led the table with ten gold, seven silver and five bronze medals. BJMC were second with five gold, five silver and four bronze while Bangladesh Navy were in third position with two gold, two silver and two bronze medals.

In the women's 400m, Rawshan Ara Putul of BJMC grabbed gold at 59.2 seconds to dethrone Nazmun Nahar Beauty. BKSP teenager Zakia Sultana won silver in the event. Maruf of Army won the men's 400m gold at 49.2 seconds beating Rahul Biswas of BJMC by 0.60 seconds. Mamun Shikder of Army won gold in men's discus throw, Humayun Kabir of Navy won pole vault gold, Taslima Akter of BKSP won women's long jump gold, Awlad Hossain of Navy won men's triple jump gold, and BJMC's women team won the 4X100m relay gold.

Veteran Jyotsna Afroz of BJMC won the women's discus throw gold, her 25th title at the national level.

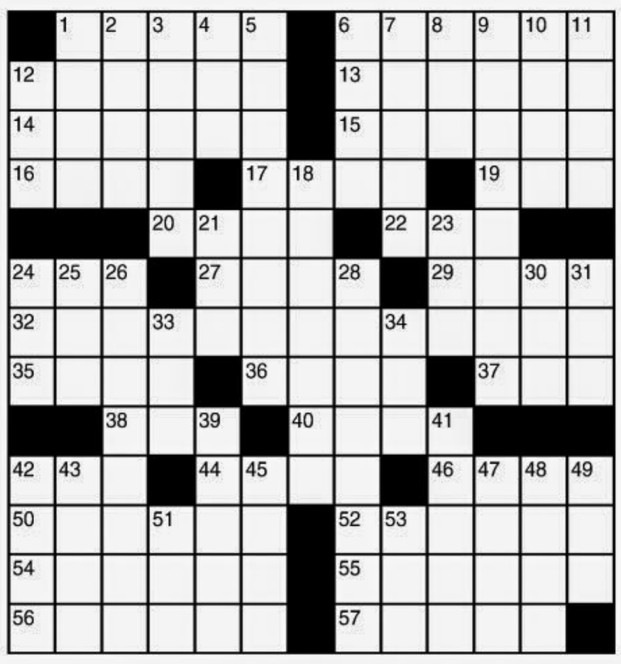
CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

ACROSS
1 Blasting caps' adjuncts
6 Bear witness
12 Fall
13 Painting on plaster
14 Fall
15 Deep-seated ill will
16 Golfer's option
17 Acknowledge
19 Shock and —
20 Green Hornet's assistant
22 Once around
24 "Of course"
27 Nutritional bean
29 Prejudice
32 Something you didn't like at first
35 Serve tea
36 Tom Cruise's daughter
37 Tex- —
38 Sprite
40 Skaters' mecca
42 "Hail!"
44 Actress Kudrow
46 Apiece
50 Starts eating
52 One of the clefs
54 Intensify
55 Between the foul lines
56 Talks a blue streak?
57 Did pre-heist recon

DOWN
1 Quartet
2 Busy with
3 Mettle
4 Shade provider
5 D.C. 100
6 Frizzy hairdo
7 Fishing net
8 X rating?
9 Entertainment providing a mental diversion
10 Garbage boat
11 Rent
12 Mai —
18 Peeping Toms
21 "— was saying, ..."
23 "The — Daba Honeymoon"
24 Shrill bark
25 Author Umberto
26 Window washer's tool
28 Arm of the Mediterranean
30 Chowed down
31 Driver's license datum
33 Web address
34 Stannum
39 Pamphlet
41 Retains
42 Tacks on
43 Opinion
45 Hostels
47 Competent
48 Dressed
49 "Yo!"
51 Masseur's workplace
53 Genetic stuff

Solution time: 27 mins.

A	S	S		S	P	A	R		D	O	P	E
C	O	O		P	A	L	O		I	R	O	N
H	Y	P	N	O	T	I	C		S	E	E	D
Y	A	H	O	O	S		K	F	C			
			S	K	Y		E	R	O	T	I	C
H	I	V	E	S		S	T	Y		A	N	A
I	B	I	S		M	A	S		P	R	O	P
D	E	N		W	A	X		L	L	A	N	O
E	X	O	T	I	C		M	Y	A			
			E	T	A		A	N	N	A	L	S
H	O	A	X		Q	U	I	X	O	T	I	C
E	D	N	A		U	T	N	E		O	V	A
M	E	N	S		E	A	T	S		Z	E	N



CRYPTOQUIP

F K Y H T Q B Y K U F Y B D J Q F V Y P D L V J Q V P E G I T M U F V T R J H A Y L Q T I O D D Y Y E P M V V T O A: "F V T R J D V J L V T K J F!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IT WAS UNMISTAKABLY APPARENT THAT THE TWO YOUNG BREAD BAKERS HAD BEEN FALLING MADLY IN LOAF.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals O