

## Final hurrah

**FROM PAGE 16**  
fielding -- even greats from the past like Colin Bland didn't throw themselves around like him," said former South Africa captain Clive Rice. "He's a huge crowd puller and an icon among kids."

According to his personal Web site, an item of fan-mail was once addressed to: "Jonty Rhodes world's best fielder." It still landed on his doormat at home. Many observers class him as an all-rounder even though he doesn't bowl.

His image he puts Christianity and family life above cricket has attracted government attention. In October, South Africa minted a 50-cent coin bearing the image of Rhodes hurling himself toward the stumps ball in hand.

## Last survivor

**FROM PAGE 16**  
following a life ban for match-fixing.

Only Azharuddin, Clive Lloyd of the West Indies and Pakistan's Imran Khan have captained their countries at three successive World Cups.

Wasim Akram and Brian Lara have both been stripped of the respective captaincies of Pakistan and the West Indies since the last tournament.

Wasim took his side to the 1999 final but has since been barred from leading his country after a match-fixing inquiry.

Lara was replaced by Carl Hooper.

Former Sri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga has since retired from the sport.

## FORM GUIDE

**FROM PAGE 13**  
Nov 21, 2002: lost to India by 3 wickets, Jodhpur.

Nov 18, 2002: bt India by 5 wickets Baroda.

Nov 15, 2002, Ahmedabad: lost to India by 5 wickets

Nov 12, 2002: lost to India by 81 runs Rajkot.

Nov 9, 2002: bt India 7 wickets Nagpur.

Nov 6, 2002: bt India by 4 wickets Jamshedpur.

## Proteas' Calypso

**FROM PAGE 13**  
rounders, with batting down to number nine with six good bowlers for Pollock to call on.

They will seek to make a good start with Herschelle Gibbs and Jacques Kallis the batsmen most expected to shine, before pushing up the scoring rate in the closing overs through a powerful lower order which includes Mark Boucher, Pollock, Lance Klusener and Nicky Boje.

# Victoria on a roll



## SPORTS REPORTER

Victoria Sporting Club romped to their fourth win in the GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League when they handed Surjo Tarun Club a 62-run defeat at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The defending champions piled up 286 before being all out in 49.4 overs after they were asked to bat.

Opener Parvez Ahmed scored highest 69 off 94 balls with eight boundaries while middle order Azam Iqbal chipped in with a 59-ball 48 that featured only three boundaries.

In reply, Surjo Tarun were restricted to 224-6 after 50 overs with one-down Nasiruddin Faruque hammering highest 95 off 119 balls. Middle order Ilyas Sunny was unbeaten on 51.

The winners raised their tally to 18 points. On the other hand, it was Surjo Tarun's third defeat in the league.

### MSC V BROTHERS

At the Bangabandhu National Stadium, fifties from Fahim Muntasir and Anwar Hossain helped Mohammedan Sporting Club post a 39-run win over Brothers Union.

Mohammedan made 219 for seven in their allotted 50 overs.

Fahim, the all-rounder, smashed 52 off 51 balls with a six and five fours while Anwar added 51 off 84 balls.

Surjo Tarun were bowled out for 180 in 48.1 overs.

### UTTARA SC V BIMAN

Elsewhere, Uttara Sporting Club cantered to a seven-wicket victory over Bangladesh Biman at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

Chasing a paltry Biman total of 131 in 50 overs, the north Dhaka outfit sailed home in 23.2 overs.

Earlier, Biman were dismissed for 131 in 39.2 overs with Golam Mortuza and Aminul Islam senior scoring 37 and 30 respectively.

### SCOREBOARDS

Scoreboards of the three GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League matches yesterday:

Victoria SC v Surjo Tarun  
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

#### VICTORIA SC

Wasim c Jubayer b Nahid	35
Parvez c Obayed b Nazmul	69
Rafiqul retired hurt	34
Azam c Nasir b Monirul	48
Anisur c Jubayer b Monirul	23
Salim b Radfiqul	0
Nuruzzaman c Jubayer b Ilyas	2

Manzarul st Fazle b Obayed	24
Sabbir lbew b Obayed	7
Razzak c Nazmul b Obayed	1
Saiful not out	1
Extras: (b-5, lb-10, nb-2, w-25)	42
Total: (All out in 49.4 overs)	286
Fall of wickets: 1-63, 2-181, 3-227, 4-229, 5-232, 6-266, 7-277, 8-282, 9-286.	

<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Nazmul	9	0	55	1



Brothers Union's Halim Shah is castled by Mohammedan's Naimur Rahman (not in picture) during their GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Monirul	7	0	53	2	Javed c Shamimul b Iqbal	41
Nahid	4	0	28	1	Nafees run out	2
Ilyas	10	1	32	1	Aftab c Sohel b Shahnewaz	1
Rafiqul	10	0	44	1	Naimur run out	0
Obayed	9.4	0	59	3	Anwar run out	51

#### SURJO TARUN

Jubayer c Salim b Nuruzzaman	16
Sakib st Salim b Nuruzzaman	5
Fazle run out	20
Nasiruddin c Parvez b Razzak	95
Sohail run out	8
Ilyas not out	51
Nazmul b Manzarul	21
Rafiqul not out	2
Extras: (lb-1, nb-1, w-4)	6
Total: (For 6 wks in 50 overs)	224
Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-26, 3-56, 4-76, 5-190, 6-220.	

<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Saiful	7	1	30	0
Nuruzzaman	10	0	36	2
Wasim	7	2	15	0

<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Morshed	10	3	40	0
Shahnewaz	10	3	17	1
Iqbal	10	0	47	1
Sohel	10	0	44	1
Mosharraf	2	0	17	0
Mustakim	8	0	47	0

**BROTHERS UNION**  
Mosharraf run out 14

Sanjay b Ashiq	13
Salauddin b Enamul	27
Halim b Naimur	38
Mahbub c Nafees b Enamul	35
Shamimul run out	1
Mustakim c Fahim b Enamul	11
Shahnewaz run out	1
Iqbal c Anwar b S Mahmud	7
Sohel not out	10
Morshed b S Mahmud	3
Extras: (B-6, lb-5, nb-6, w-3)	20
Total: (All out in 48.1 overs)	180

<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Ashiq	7	0	22	1
Monir	6	1	14	0
Naimur	10	0	38	1
Enamul	10	0	29	3
S Mahmud	9.1	1	40	2
Fahim	6	1	26	0

**Result: Victoria SC won by 62 runs.**

<b>Mohammedan SC v Brothers Union</b>	
<b>Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium</b>	
<b>MOHAMMEDAN SC</b>	

### UTTARA SC v Biman

Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium  
**BIMAN**

Athar c Moniruzzaman b Debabrata	1
Rashedul c Shahriar b Rabbani	7
Jahangir c Moniruzzaman b Debabrata	13
Mortuza lbw b Sumon	37
Aminul sr b Shaiful	30
Hasanuzzaman c Moniruzzaman b Shaiful	2
Sharif c Moniruzzaman b Shaiful	7

Ziaur c Rabbani b Sumon	7
Mosaddek c Aslam b Monirul	9
Anisur c Rabbani b Sumon	3
Aminul jr not out	0
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, nb-3, w-10)	15
Total: (All out in 39.2 overs)	131

Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-10, 3-46, 4-83, 5-85, 6-105, 7-109, 8-123, 9-128.

<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Debabrata	10	2	22	2
Rabbani	10	3	24	1
Shaiful	7	1	32	3
Sumon	9.2	0	38	3
Faisal	1	0	7	0
Monirul	2	0	6	1

**UTTARA SC**  
Moniruzzaman b Shariful

Shahriar c Mortuza b Anisur	10
Nayeem retired hurt	14
Sumon c & b Mosaddek	9
Faisal not out	26
Rana not out	12
Extras: (w-8)	8
Total: (For 3 wks in 23.2 overs)	135

Fall of wickets: 1-47, 2-80, 3-117.

<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Aminul jr	4	0	26	0
Anisur	5	0	40	1
Shariful	6	1	23	1
Mosaddek	6.2	0	38	1
Ziaur	2	0	8	0

**Result: Uttara SC won by seven wickets.**

# Mbeki smells

**FROM PAGE 16**  
in Nairobi, Kenya, saying they had information of a terrorist threat after 11 people were killed in a bomb attack at a Mombasa hotel last year.

The Australian government has also pressurised its team -- but to no avail -- to withdraw from its Zimbabwe game due to be staged in Bulawayo on February 24.

The eighth World Cup starts with an opening ceremony in Cape Town on Saturday. Most of the matches will be played in South Africa while Zimbabwe was originally scheduled to stage six games and Kenya was due to host two.

"Interestingly, and of importance, other governments whose citizens

are scheduled to play in Zimbabwe and Kenya have not questioned the determinations of the ICC and the experts who have done detailed groundwork in these countries," Mbeki said.

He said the decision to host matches in Zimbabwe and Kenya was aimed at developing cricket on the continent.

"A few years ago, the ICC and our United Cricket Board decided that they should work together to encourage the development of cricket in other African countries.

"It was most unfortunate that this great tournament should have been politicised."

# Geniuses apart

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Tendulkar missed 11 matches on end recently due to a pulled hamstring and a twisted ankle. He is said to still be recovering.

Debate also rages in India over whether Tendulkar should be returned from No.4 to opener, where he has scored 30 of his 33 one-day international centuries.

Lara, now down to 19th in the one-day rankings, can claim one edge on Tendulkar in World Cups. Among players to have scored more than 500 runs in the tournament, Lara, who has 708 from 19 matches, has the second best strike rate of 89.62, behind Indian Kapil Dev's stellar mark of 115. Tendulkar is third on 86.52.

For Lara, one-day cricket's 11th-highest run-scorer, the need to overcome recent history will be acute. The 33-year-old has had various battles that have brought on the tag 'flawed genius,' and has had to endure a match-fixing investigation. But lately, health issues have been his undoing and he will come into the tournament having played only 10 one-day internationals in 2002, and none since September.

Following a six-month break after resigning as captain in 2000, a hamstring injury kept Lara from tours of Zimbabwe and Kenya. He fractured his elbow in December 2001, and was out for three months. A mystery illness in Sri Lanka last September cost him another four months.

A spat with Trinidadian cricket officials over his perceived leisurely return from illness led to media calls for him to be left out of the West

Indies' World Cup squad. It was a cry chief selector Viv Richards was happy to ignore, given the experience of Lara amid a young team.

Lara, who scored 45 as West Indies beat Orange Free State in a Cup warm-up on Monday, declared before the tournament: "I'm looking forward to reinstating myself as the No.1 batsman in the world and that is my purpose in going out to South Africa."

## Test champs

**FROM PAGE 16**  
at the top of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Test match table following their 2-0 rout of Pakistan in a home series last month.

ICC president Malcolm Gray presented a trophy to South African captain Shaun Pollock at a brief ceremony here where the hosts take on the West Indies in the World Cup opener on Sunday.

Pollock said the honour was well deserved and recognised the rise of the South African team over the years.

"Australia are a very good Test side and I'm sure they won't be happy about the fact that they are not rated number one any more," Pollock said.

"Over the last four years, we have played very well and beaten Pakistan, India and the West Indies away and drawn in Sri Lanka.

"All these things contributed to this Test Championship trophy."

South Africa overtook Australia in the rankings despite the Ashes triumph for Steve Waugh's men.

## Haunted history

**FROM PAGE 16**  
only score of note he has made for the Proteas in one-day cricket in the 2002-2003 season.

But even more worrying for the Proteas would be his perceived weakness against spin.

Time after time this season, as soon as the opposition brings on a quality spinner, Klusener cannot seem to get the ball off the square and as his desperation grows, he loses his wicket.

In the penultimate warm-up game against Boland on Tuesday in Paarl, Klusener was playing for the Boland side and could not get teammate Nicky Boje away.

Boje ended with figures of 10-2-16-2, bowling a large part of his spell against the left-hander.

It is all a far cry from 1999 when the mere sight of him striding to the wicket sent shivers of fear down the opposition.

He is likely to start against the West Indies tomorrow, but it will be interesting to see if he keeps his place if his indifferent form continues.

## Eng fix Zim

**FROM PAGE 16**  
The ECB have no right of appeal against Sachs' decision and must now decide whether to play the match or boycott the fixture, so losing World Cup points and risking a heavy fine.

## Everything

**FROM PAGE 13**  
West Indies did it the easy way in 1975 and 1979 when they swept all before them.

Australia did it the hard way in 1999 when two early losses to Pakistan and New Zealand left it needing six straight wins and a tie to lift the trophy.

As thrilling as that charge home was, Gilchrist wants no repeat.

"I wouldn't think the best way to go is getting ourselves in a sudden-death stage after three games like we did in '99 not good for your health, that," said Gilchrist.

"I don't know that there's any blueprint, any successful formula to winning the World Cup.

"We won last time after very ordinary games in the first three games.

"Pakistan, I guess, were very similar in 1992 in that they started slowly and really built the momentum up.

"But what's to say you can't go and win every match?"

"We're confident and we're looking forward to the tournament."

Let the games begin.