

## Saber's ten-point

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touched on National Cricket League format which has suffered most from the BCB's illogical ideas.

"The Board shouldn't have shorted our only First Class competition format because that was designed to decentralise the game and take it out of Dhaka. We also wanted that for the development of the game and its infrastructure in all the six divisions.

"The League should have expanded more by now but instead they" (the present BCB administration) have cut it short," said Saber.

Thirdly he asked the government to dissolve the present advisory council of the Board and reinstate the democratically elected Board of Directors who had been working on a set plan for development of the game.

Saber next sought competent people in the various standing committees of the BCB.

"I don't have any problem with the Prime Minister's son Arifat Rahman (head of the BCB's development committee) joining the BCB. It's a blessing for the game as he is in a position to influence certain issues in favour of cricket and that's how the Board should utilise his presence. But he should not be given charge of development as there are more capable people for that job," Saber said.

In his fifth recommendation, Saber wanted the coaches training programme to resume because that is one of the basic plans for any Test playing country.

"We had six national coaches and four Sri Lankan coaches to develop our overall coaching standard. But eight out of those ten coaches have lost their jobs and there is hardly any coaching programme nowadays.

"The current president has said that he has stopped it for fund short-age but his argument holds no ground because according to the plan we had formulated, Bangladesh's cricket is assured of drawing more than Taka 150 crores between 2001 to 2007 from different sources which include corporate sponsorship and grants from the ICC and ACC," added Saber.

Saber's sixth point was about developing cricket infrastructure across the country.

"We had started to developing venues in six divisional headquarters. But that work is now at a standstill for reasons unknown," he said.

In his next suggestion, Saber wanted the reintroduction of the A team programme that would ultimately help in developing a strong national team. He pointed out that there was no tour of the A team last year which had been a regular feature during his time.

In his eighth point, Saber asked the government to appoint enough foreign coaches for the age-group development programmes. He also sought the return of the out of contract six national coaches to conduct different training programmes of the BCB.

Saber's penultimate demanded was of a change in the selection committee. He said that there was a standard procedure in his time of not including anybody in the selection committee who had not played for the national team. But that is not the case anymore.

Finally, Saber thought that there should be better communication between the ICC and other Test playing nations. Saber also denounced ICC Chairman Malcolm Gray's recent remark that the ICC did not follow proper procedures while granting Bangladesh the Test status in 2000.

"We had good communication with everybody. But it seems we have lost that rapport otherwise there is no reason for Malcolm Gray to make such an objectionable remark," he said adding that the board should have protested that statement officially.

"Malcolm should know that the ICC followed a detailed and deliberate four-year long procedure from 1997 to 2000 before granting Bangladesh the Test status."

## Sad to say 'em

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the stands as his team suffered another cruel twist of fate to be eliminated after a tied game.

The 36-year-old, who played in three of his side's six games, took one wicket in 24.5 overs for 133 runs.

His selection became a national debate and when he was omitted from the side for South Africa's must-win Pool B match against Sri Lanka he must have feared that the writing was on the wall.

Still Donald would have hoped for the chance to redeem himself in the tournament's latter stages, but when the rain came down and the Duckworth-Lewis score sheets condemned South Africa to an early exit the man known in his prime as "white lightning" was heading for the most ignominious of farewells.

Other leading players were also heading home early.

World record-breaking batsman Brian Lara, Inzamam, the fourth highest one-day international run scorer in history, Pakistan captain Waqar Younis and Shoaib Akhtar, the world's fastest bowler, will play no part in the business end of the sport's showpiece event.

## Injury recall

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form at the World Cup, averaging 19 in six innings, although his strike rate has been an impressive 96.61, almost a run a ball.

In a highly charged group game against arch-rivals Pakistan he scored 21 off 14 balls, putting on 53 for the opening wicket with Tendulkar off 5.4 overs.

# Abahani back on track



### SPORTS REPORTER

Young right-arm seamer Alamgir Gazi claimed five wickets as title aspirants Abahani Krira Chakra returned to winning ways with a 15-run victory over Bangladesh Biman at the BKSF ground in Savery yesterday.

Alamgir bowled only 6.4 overs conceding a meagre 13 runs to ground Biman for 200 in 49.4. The national flag carrier team was chasing 216 for win.

It was Alamgir's best bowling figures this season.

Middle-order Hasanuzzaman put up some fight for Biman with a 91-ball 53 while former national captain Aminul Islam (41) was the other notable run-getter.

Earlier, Abahani's 215 for seven in 50 overs was built around two half-centuries from opener Mehrab Hossain and Sajjad Ahmed.

Mehrab scored 52 off 90 balls with a six and five boundaries while Sajjad added 53 off 93 balls.

It was Abahani's fifth win against two defeats that raised their tally to 30 points from seven matches.

On the other hand, Biman tasted their seventh defeat in nine matches that kept them at the bottom of the table along with Surjo Tarun Club.

There will be no matches today. Abahani will meet arch-rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club in the next match tomorrow.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the GrameenPhone Premier Division Cricket League match between Abahani and Biman at the BKSF yesterday:

### ABAHANI

Mehrab c Jahangir b Ahsanullah	52			
Sajjad c and b Mosaddek	53			
T Mahmud c Khan b Mosaddek	34			
Akram b Khan	21			
Asadullah run out	0			
Naimur st Mortruza b Khan	6			
Arman c Anis b Aimuljr	16			
Mukhter not out	9			
Extras: (b-2, lb-8, w-14)	24			
Total: (For 7 wkts in 50 overs)	215			
Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-123, 3-175, 4-176, 5-184, 6-191, 7-215				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Aminuljr	8	0	40	1
Anis	10	1	38	0

Ziaur	7	2	33	0
Khan	5	0	20	2
Ahsanullah	10	2	30	1
Mosaddek	10	0	44	2
<b>BIMAN</b>				
Khan b Alamgir				1
Rashedul c Mukhter b Alamgir				1
Jahangir b Alamgir				7
Hasan c Mehrab b Arman				53
Aminul sr lbw b T Mahmud				41
Ziaur run out				19
Ahsanullah c Mukhter b Suja				13
Mosaddek c Arman b T Mahmud				10
Aminul jr c sub b Alamgir				29
Mortuza not out				2
Anis b Alamgir				0
Extras: (b-6, lb-9, nb-2, w-7)				24
Total: (All out in 49.4 overs)				200
Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-12, 3-16, 4-100, 5-133, 6-148, 7-149, 8-179, 9-199				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Russell	9	1	21	0
Alamgir	6.4	1	13	5
Neeeyamur	1	0	5	0
Arman	10	0	44	1
Mehrab	5	0	25	0
T Mahmud	9	1	41	2
<b>Result: Abahani won by 15 runs.</b>				

**Result: Abahani won by 15 runs.**

# First round in stats



REUTERS, Johannesburg

Notable statistics after the first phase of the 2003 cricket World Cup:

\* The highest score of the World Cup was recorded by Zimbabwe's Craig Wishart, with a 149-ball 172 not out the 10th highest in history, 16 runs behind the World Cup record and 22 behind the one-day all-time record against Namibia in Harare (Feb 10). Canada opening batsman Ishwar Maraj, meanwhile faced 155 balls to score 53 not out against South Africa (Feb 27) in the second slowest innings in tournament history.

\* Australia's Ian Harvey, a late addition to the Australia squad after Shane Watson's injury, took a wicket with his first ball of the tournament by removing Pakistan's Saleem Elahi at The Wanderers. Harvey ended with four for 58, Australia won by 82 runs and Harvey was dropped next match (Feb 11).

\* Sachin Tendulkar became the top run-scorer in World Cup history during his 52 against the Netherlands, overhauling former Pakistan batsman Javed Miandad's total of 1,083 runs when he had reached 25 (Feb 12). He scored 152 in the 181-run win over Namibia (Feb 23) to match Australian Mark Waugh's career total of four World Cup hundreds and raised his career tally of ODI runs to beyond 12,000 with a brilliant 98 against Pakistan (March 1).

\* India's Javagal Srinath became the fifth bowler to take 300 one-day wickets when he dismissing Dutchman Feiko Kloppenburg in Paarl (Feb 12).

\* Left-armer Chaminda Vaas created cricket history with a hat-trick off the first three balls of the match against Bangladesh, on the way to final figures of 6-25 in Pietermaritzburg (Feb 14). After five matches, Vaas boasted 16 wickets at 7.81 apiece.

\* England, having refused to play in Zimbabwe, bowled their first ball of the World Cup against the Netherlands in East London (Feb 16) 163 hours and 30 minutes after the tournament began.

\* Canada were skittled for 36, the lowest total in one-day international history, as Sri Lanka crushed them by nine wickets in Paarl

# Quips & Quotes

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**South Africa skipper Shaun Pollock before his team's elimination:**

"Knowing my capabilities as a batsman, I'd rather take on Jonah Lomu one-on-one than Brett Lee."

**Namibia bowler Rudi van Vuuren, who has also played international rugby:**

"If you went round your local supermarket buying everything on the International Olympic Committee's blacklist, you would need a trolley the size of a bus."

**Former England all-rounder Ian Botham, speaking out in defence of Shane Warne following his positive drugs test.**

"There can no longer be a shred of sympathy for Warne. Warne has betrayed Australian sport."

**The Australian newspaper after it was revealed Warne had taken not one but two tablets containing diuretics.**

"Go away!"

**Shane Warne's son Jackson, yelling at the media camped around the family home in Melbourne.**

"It runs into million and millions of Zimbabwe dollars and millions of US dollars."

**Vince Hogg, managing director of the Zimbabwe Cricket Union, on the financial implications of England's refusal to play in Harare.**

"This is the equivalent of Tonga beating Canada in curling, or the Jamaican bobsled team winning gold... To translate, Canadians in pyjama-style uniforms whacked the ball around a little, running crazily between six sticks in the

ground, before throwing and catching better than the other guys."

**The Ottawa Citizen after Canada's shock defeat of Bangladesh.**

"It's really sad and it wasn't easy. We couldn't afford to risk the World Cup."

**South Africa selector and former teammate Pat Symcox after Jonty Rhodes was dropped from the squad with a broken hand.**

"If you would someone to field for your life, I would go for Jonty."

**Former South Africa all rounder Mike Procter.**

"I don't think I've got the patience to be an umpire or the temperament to be a coach, and I'm not a commentator. I may talk a lot in the field, but it's mostly rubbish."

**Jonty Rhodes on his future after cricket.**

"I think the big fella was probably a little bit nervous."

**New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming after all rounder Chris Cairns returned to bowling after a year off injured and was hit for 21 off a single over.**

"Olonga is not a Zimbabwean, he is a Zambian, but he has been allowed to play here. Flower is also not a Zimbabwean. He is British."

**Nathan Shamuyarira, information secretary for the governing ZANU-PF party in Zimbabwe, after Andrew Flower and Henry Olonga wore black armbands while playing to protest against President Robert Mugabe's government.**

"We are travelling nicely at the moment."

**Australia coach John Buchanan.**

one-day record by a wicketkeeper.

\* Australia's Andy Bichel, only playing because of an injury to Jason Gillespie, completed the third best bowling figures in one-day history, taking seven for 20 against England at Port Elizabeth (March 2). He then scored 34 not out to earn the man-of-the-match award as Australia won by two wickets to seal a world record 12th straight one-day victory.

\* The World Cup saw only its second tied match when South Africa clashed with Sri Lanka in their final Pool B games (March 4). The previous instance, against Australia in the 1999 World Cup, also involved South Africa. In each instance the team were eliminated as a result.

## ODI RATINGS

REUTERS, London

Latest PricewaterhouseCoopers one-day international ratings after World Cup group stage matches in South Africa on Tuesday:	
<b>BATSMAN</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
S Jayasuriya	821
M Hayden	805
S Tendulkar	802
H Gibbs	771
M Bevan	746
M A Tappatt	743
R Sarwan	720
Y Youhana	716
C Gayle	712
A Flower	710
<b>BOWLER</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
S Pollock	909
M Muralitharan	899
G McGrath	873
M Ntini	812
C Vaas	795
J Gillespie	771
W Akram	769

# Best and Worst

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Shoaib finally got his man for a 75-ball 98, but by then Tendulkar, struggling with cramp, had all but won the game. Shoaib ended with one for 72.

### THE BEST INNINGS

Another three-way tie. Canada's John Davison, a first-class off spinner and tail-end batsman, hit the fastest century (32 in fours, 36 in sixes) in Cup history with a 67-baller against West Indies at Centurion (Feb 23), completed with a six off Mervyn Dillon. The achievement, he said, "sent a shiver down my spine". Four days earlier, Canada were bowled out for a world-record low of 36 by Sri Lanka. New Zealand's Stephen Fleming scored 134 not out off 132 deliveries in a high-pressure run chase to beat South

Africa at The Wanderers (Feb 16). "I've waited a long time for an innings like that," he said.

Tendulkar's 98 against Pakistan may have missed the magical three-figure mark but, in terms of textbook savagery, must rank as one of the great one-day innings.

### THE BEST CATCH

West Indian Vasebber Drakes, to end Davison's remarkable innings of 111. He seemed badly positioned after drifting in off the boundary rope at long-off but jack-knifed backwards and caught the ball one-handed high above his head. The television commentators announced a six before Drakes got up with the ball in his hand. He also completed figures of five for 44.

Brett Lee's dismissal of Andy Bignault after the Zimbabwean's 25-ball half-century in Bulawayo (Feb 24) came close. Bignault cross-batted a lightning full toss straight back at the bowler who somehow caught the ball at throat level. Lee himself could not believe it. Lip-readers would have had no problems identifying his shocked expletive.

### THE BEST RUN-OUT

A two-way tie. New Zealand's 20-run win against West Indies in Port

## Vaughan tipped as new captain

INTERNET, Port Elizabeth

Batsman Michael Vaughan has emerged as the early favourite to take over the captaincy of the England one-day cricket team following the resignation of Nasser Hussain.

Marcus Trescothick was initially seen as Hussain's natural successor in both the limited-overs and Test arenas, but the Somerset opener has struggled to hit top form with the bat in recent months.

And that has seemingly left the way clear for Yorkshire's Vaughan, although Surrey skipper Adam Hoolioake and Durham all-rounder Paul Collingwood are also being tipped as possible candidates.

Hussain wants to remain in charge of the England Test team despite stepping down as one-day skipper following his country's World Cup exit.

"I want to play in 100 Test matches and captain England in the Test match arena for a little while yet," he said on Tuesday.

But not everyone is convinced that having two different people in charge is the way forward.

One of Hussain's predecessors, Mike Gatting, says having two captains could lead to confusion.

"It has happened in Australia where Steve Waugh is Test captain and Ricky Ponting is in charge of the one-day side," said Gatting.

"But the coach will have to deal with two captains instead of one, the players will have to deal with two captains instead of one."

England will take their time before naming a successor to Hussain, with chairman of selectors David Graveney saying: "There's no rush."

## ECB expects Zim to tour England

AFP, London

English cricket supremo Tim Lamb on Wednesday vowed to fight any move to impose financial penalties over England's refusal to play their World Cup match in Zimbabwe.

Lamb also said he had heard nothing from Zimbabwean cricket officials to suggest they would not go ahead with their planned tour of England this summer.

England refused to travel to Harare for the game on February 13 and as well as forfeiting four points, could face claims for damages by the International Cricket Council and the Zimbabwe Cricket Union.

Lamb told BBC Radio that the English and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) would resist any such moves.

"We don't feel the need to make any apologies for not going to Zimbabwe. We did not receive unequivocal assurances regarding safety from the relevant security services," he said.

"We had a very strong legal case and were very disappointed (the ICC refused to move the game to South Africa), and if it comes to arbitration we will defend our position."

English cricket is facing a compensation claim from the Zimbabwe Cricket Union of around one million pounds (1.6 million dollars). The cancellation of the Zimbabwe tour would cost an estimated ten million pounds (16 million dollars).

## THE WORST DROP

South Africa's Mark Boucher, snatching too eagerly at the ball, dropped Fleming on 53 at The Wanderers from a regulation edge (Feb 16). Fleming went on to win the match for New Zealand with his unbeaten century, leaving the hosts in turmoil. For the next few days, arguments raged over Shaun Pollock's captaincy and whether Allan Donald should be axed.

Pedro Collins made as bad an error against South Africa although it proved less costly. He sauntered nonchalantly backwards to catch Lance Klusener at square leg at Cape

Town only to step on the rope. Klusener, however, with 57 from 48 balls, was caught by Carl Hooper in the final over as West Indies sneaked home by three runs.

## THE WORST CELEBRATION

Kenya's players jived away at the fall of each late wicket as they pulled off the biggest upset of the World Cup against the Sri Lankans in Nairobi (Feb 24). There were more jubilant huddles when they beat Bangladesh in Johannesburg (March 1) to clinch their place in the Super Sixes. Captain Steve Tikolo has promised more dancing in the next round.

### THE BEST QUOTE

Namibian bowler Rudi van Vuuren, who has also represented his country at rugby union: "Knowing my capabilities as a batsman, I'd rather take on Jonah Lomu one-on-one than Brett Lee."

### THE WORST INNINGS

Leading batsman Inzamamul Haq, dismissed for a golden duck against England, went in to bat against the Netherlands at Paarl (Feb 25) needing a confidence boost. Barely moving his feet, he was trapped for a second-ball duck by Tim de Leede's medium-paced floater. The fourth heaviest one-day scorer in history, he made scores of 6, 4, 0, 0, 6 and 3 as



PHOTO: STAR

Shabana Parveen Nipa (R) and Ivana during their tenth round engagement of the 24th national chess championship at the NSC conference room yesterday.

# Jobless for the moment



AFP, Melbourne

Shane Warne will know by next month what he is allowed to do in cricket during his year-long doping ban.

But Victoria coach David Hookes would like him to at least visit the state team's dressing room some time this week.

Hookes again called for the state captain to be able to train with his teammates so Warne can be ready to play once his ban ends on February 10 next year.

The Australian Cricket Board's legal department is working on the parameters of Warne's ban, while its cricket operations manager Michael Brown will soon speak to Hookes about the issue.

"I think it would be very unfair if he's not allowed to practise cricket," Hookes said.

"I concede his playing ban ends

## McEnroe misses

## British job

AFP, London

Tennis great John McEnroe says he is disappointed local tennis chiefs have snubbed his offer to help revive the game in Britain.

The Lawn Tennis Association are set to unveil David Felgate, Tim Henman's former coach, as their new director of performance on Wednesday.

But McEnroe says he was prepared to play a part-time role after discussions with LTA chief executive John Crowther.

"I was interested in working on a limited basis, inspiring the kids in some way, but I have heard nothing," the 44-year-old American told The Times newspaper.

BOWLING & BATTING			
REUTERS, Johannesburg			
Best bowling and batting performances at the Cricket World Cup after the completion of the group stages:			
<b>BEST INNINGS ANALYSIS</b>			
7-15	Glenn McGrath	Australia v Namibia	Potchefstroom
7-20	Andy Bichel	Australia v England	Port Elizabeth
6-23	Ashish Nehra	India v England	Durban
6-25	Chaminda Vaas	Sri Lanka v Bangladesh	Pietermaritzburg
5-24	Collins Obuya	Kenya v Sri Lanka	Nairobi
5-27	Austin Cordington	Canada v Bangladesh	Durban
5-28	Wasim Akram	Pakistan v Namibia	Kimberley