Nafees is the best

Bangladesh vice-captain Shahriar Nafees became the Cricketer of the Year in the Bangladesh Cricket Friendship Conference Centre in the

fettle with the willow, also took the

was adjudged the Best Cricketer.

veteran left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique who picked up both the Best Bowler and the Best All-rounder awards.

Sakib Al Hasan picked up the given the honour of the Young Tiger.

The board, which introduced the

Former cricketer-turned-umpire Nadir Shah claimed the Best Umpire

iournalists Azad Mazumder of the New Age lifted the prize for the Journalist of the Year (print media) while Khairul Amin Tuhin of NTV picked up the prize for Journalist of the Year (electronic media).

The Daily Janakantha's Mir Farid won the Best Photojournalist's

BCB selects teams for practice ties

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday named the two teams that will play two practice matches as part the national team's preparation for next month's ICC Champions Trophy in India.

The two practice matches will be held at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) on September 23 and 25

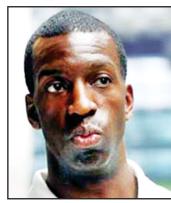
Tigers captain Habibul Bashar will lead Team A, the virtual final squad for the mini World Cup of cricket, sans his top pace bowlers Mashrafee Bin Mortuza and Syed Rasel. Both the quicks have been rested due to injury.

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Sachin Tendulkar scored 141 not out from 148 balls in the DLF Cup against the West Indies at the Kinrara Oval in Kuala Lumpur on September 12. It was his fortieth ODI century, third against the West Indies.





Michael Johnson

(Olympic track legend) "I don't believe Jones will ever be able to repair her image or get back to the type of performances that made her one of the highest profile women athletes in the world." On Marion Jones



TEN Sports Sunfeast Open Day 4 Live at 5:30 pm

SPORTS REPORTER

Awards at the China-Bangladesh The southpaw, who was in fine

Best Batsman of the Year award. Last year, Mohammad Ashraful

It was also a delightful double for

Emerging Cricketer of the Year award. Rookie opener Mehrab Hossain, who was picked for the ICC Champions Trophy squad, was

award night last year, also showed its respect to late Daulatuzzaman, a Bangladesh international and coach. by giving him the Lifetime AchievementAward.

of the Year award. There were also awards for

Ground inspection committee named

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday announced the 11-member committee which will be responsible for inspecting the Bangabandhu National Stadium and set tentative dates for transfer and start of the Profe-ssional Football League.

BFF general secretary Anwarul Hoque Helal has been named convenor and the members are Sirajul Islam Bachchu, Manzoor Hossain Malu, Golam Rasul Molla (all BFF). Mostagur Rahman (Mohammedan), Satyajit Das Rupu (Abahani), Mizanuddin Ahmed (Brothers Union), Nurul Alam Chowdhury (Sheikh Russel KC), Rumman Wali Bin Sabbir (Football Players' Welfare Association), Ibrahim Nesar (Referees' Association) and Nurul Haque Pradhan (NSC director planning or his representative).

The committee has been asked to submit its recommendation to the federation by September 27

Can footballers go to Asian Games?

Dhaka players are over the moon after clinching the first Inter-district Women's Tootball Tournament at the Women's Sports Complex in Dhanmondi yesterday.

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) finally got the assurance for fund to send the national team to this year's Asian Games in Doha but the football's ruling body of the country was yet to get the nod from the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA).

BFF general secretary Anwarul Hoque Helal told The Daily Star yesterday that State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman has given him the verbal assurance to arrange fund for the team to make the Qatar trip in December.

"I talked with the minister today and convinced him that we should take part in the Games because we don't get the chance to play top teams in Asia like Korea or Bahrain often. I also told him that the BFF will take care of the preparation but it

The minister agreed to give the fund and also talked with BOA secretary general Kutubuddin Ahmed. The problem is that Kutub did not want to send the football team's entry unless he gets the permission of the BOA chief.

"Kutub told me that he would send the entries of the contingent tomorrow morning and if he does not get the green signal from BOA president and Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Moeen U Ahmed before the deadline, he cannot help us," Helal said quoting Kutub.

According to Helal, the BOA chief could not be contacted by the BOA secretary general till filing of this

The BOA had axed the football team from the contingent for their poor show in the recently concluded needs about Tk 12 lakh for air tick- 10th South Asian Games in

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

Darrel set to return

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Controversial umpire Darrell Hair is set to make a sensational return to international cricket at the Champions Trophy next month, reports said Wednesday, in a move expected to anger Pakistan.

The 53-year-old revealed to Australian media that he would travel to India for the one-day tournament featuring all the world's top "Yes, I am down to umpire in the

Champions Trophy and I expect to fulfill that appointment," Hair told the Courier Mail newspaper based in the northern city of Brisbane.

"I'm not sure what matches I'll be doing but ... I'm looking forward to it." The head of the International Cricket Council (ICC), Malcolm Speed, declined to be drawn into the controversy and described Hair's participation in the Champions'

Trophy as mere speculation. "As far as I know the panel of umpires has not been announced yet," he said in Beijing, where he was

attending events promoting the growth of cricket in China.

"There is some concern about Darrell Hair's umpiring future but I am not going to comment on something that amounts to mere speculation at the moment.'

Hair's career was widely thought to be over following the fiasco at the Oval Test between England and Pakistan last month.

The match ended in bizarre fashion when Pakistan refused to take the field after tea on the fourth day in protest at being accused of ball tampering by Hair and fellow umpire Billy Doctrove.

The move led to the umpires awarding the match to England -the first forfeit in the 129-year history of Test cricket -- and triggering the biggest crisis in the sport since the match-fixing scandal in 2000.

Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq was subsequently charged with ball tampering and bringing the game into disrepute while Hair added to the chaos when it was revealed he offered to quit the elite panel of umpires for 500,000 dollars.

Hair, no stranger to controversy,

public apology for demanding the

News that he could stand in the Champions Trophy comes just days before the much awaited hearing into Inzamam's actions on September 27 and 28.

Inzamam, who has been retained as Pakistan's captain for the Champions Trophy, faces a ban of two-four Test matches or foureight one-day internationals if found

The Pakistan Cricket Board said it would not comment before the ICC hearing

"We will not make any comment as the ICC code of conduct meeting is due to take place next week and we will wait for that before taking any steps," board spokesman Abbas Zaidi told AFP.

However, former cricket legend Wasim Akram called Hair "rude" and said he too should be penalised if Inzamam is banned.

"Why is only Inzamam appearing before the court and why is he only charged for bringing the game into disrepute? Hair should also face a hearing," he told AFP.

Punish Hair too: Akram

Cricket

AFP, Islamabad

Cricket legend Wasim Akram Wednesday said Australian umpire Darrell Hair should also be penalised if Pakistan captain Inzamamul Hag is banned for his role in the Oval Test fiasco

Inzamam is due to face an International Cricket Council (ICC) code of conduct hearing in London on September 27 and 28 and faces a possible ban on charges of ball tampering and bringing the game into disrepute

"Hair has not only been a controversial umpire now but he has been controversial in the past as well, and I think he should also be penalised if Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq is banned," Wasim told AFP.

Hair and Inzamam were embroiled in a major controversy during last month's fourth Test at The Oval after the umpires awarded England five penalty runs against Pakistan on suspicions of interfering with the ball.

Pakistan subsequently protested and refused to continue the match, which was eventually awarded to England after a stalemate -- the first ever forfeit in Test cricket's 129-year history.

"It was an unnecessary stand-off at Oval and although Pakistan's protest was wrongly prolonged, Inzamam had led his team to the field and it was the umpires, especially Hair, who did not want to start the match," said Wasim.

"Why is only Inzamam appearing before the court and why is he

only charged for bringing the game into disrepute?

"Hair should also face a hear-

Wasim said Hair was rude and had previously called Pakistani players "monkeys". "He (Hair) is a rude sort of person and in 1995 he called Pakistani

players monkeys for continuously jumping in appeal and as a captain l took a strong notice of that and protested over it," said Wasim. Since the Oval controversy the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has demanded that Hair should not

stand in their team's future

But reports from Australia Wednesday suggested Hair will **SEE PAGE 18 COL 5**

Dhaka champs in women's soccer

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka became champions in the inaugural Inter-district Women's Football Tournament with a comfortable 2-0 win over Raishahi in the final at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday.

Tournament top scorer Sainu Marma put Dhaka ahead after 16 minutes while Nubai sealed the victory in the 58th minute.

Dhaka's Pinky was adjudged player of the final match while Chameli was adjudged the player of the tournament.

Bangladesh Olympic Association secretary general Kutubuddin Ahmed, former national footballers Zakaria Pintoo, Badal Roy and Dewan Shafiul Arefin Tutul and Barkatullah Bulu, Advisor to the Women and Children Affairs Ministry gave away prizes.

Proteas smash Zimbabweans

STAR SPORT MONITOR

Mark Boucher smashed the Zimbabwe bowling attack to bits with an unbeaten 147 runs as South Africa posted the third highest score in a one-day international in the third and final match of the series against their neighbours at Sedgars Park in Potchefstroom yesterday.

The South African wicketkeeperbatsman came in at number four and took centre stage as he struck eight boundaries and as many as 10 sixes in an innings that spanned only 68

Openers Loots Bossman and Alviro Petersen struck 88 and 80 respectively while skipper Jaques Kallis also scored a half-century.

SOUTH AFRICA

Bosman st Taylor b Kamungozi 88 Petersen c & b Utseya Kallis c Chigumbura b Utseya Boucher not out Kemp st Taylor b Kamungozi 10 Van der Wath b Rainsford Duminy not out Extras: (w-9, nb-4) Total: (For 5 wkts in 50 overs) 418 Did not bat: Hall, Telemachus, Langeveldt. Nel Fall of wickets: 1-160, 2-199, 3-290.

1-317, 5-351.				
Bowler	0	M	R	W
Rainsford	10	0	58	1
Mupariwa	9	0	82	0
Chibhabha	6	0	63	0
Jtseya	9	0	77	2
Chigumbura	2	0	28	0
Kamungozi	10	0	70	2
Masakadza	4	0	40	0

Kabaddi finals tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

Both the boys' and girls' finals of the 14th NZ Textile Mills School kabaddi tournament will be held at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court tomorrow. Bir Shreshtha Munshi Abdur

Rouf Rifles School and College will appear in both finals, the boys taking on Dolairpar High School and the girls meeting Siddheshwari Girls High School.

Harbhajan inspires India

Cricket

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

An inspiring all-round show from Indian spinner handed India an unexpected victory after a dismal batting collapse from West Indies in their DLF Cup one-day international at the Kinrara Oval in Kuala Lumpur.

India were skittled for 162 in 39.3 overs by the West Indies but the Caribbean islanders failed to punch home the advantage, losing by 16

Singh took three wickets for 35 after his less than conventional 37 during a vital seventh wicket partnership of 78 with Sachin Tendulkar who batted masterfully on a dodgy wicket to score 65 runs

It was India's first limited-overs win since May and they must now beat Australia on Friday to make the final. The West Indies have already qualified.

"Anything can happen in cricket and we never gave up," said Indian captain Rahul Dravid.

"The boys were disappointed with their batting but I think our bowlers have been bowling very well, getting it in the right place. I'm very happy for them." While the West Indian bowling

attack has proved effective at this tournament their batting has left much to be desired. They fiddled with the lineup Wednesday to give the under-

performers a chance to shine,

meaning opener Chris Gayle came

in at six and captain Brian Lara at Lara admitted it didn't work, and

it was a worry. "It shows a few guys are out of form and lack confidence," he said.

"It's a cause for concern but I am

very happy with our bowlers." Ajit Agarkar led the attack for India with Munaf Patel in place of Irfan Pathan who was dropped after poor performances in earlier games

Runako Morton, a controversial January 2004 over a stabbing incident, opened with Shivnarine Chanderpaul and they started well enough, motoring to 44-0 before their nerves got the better of them.

Chanderpaul was the first to go, spooning a Patel delivery to Virender Sehwag at square leg for

Patel pounced again to remove vice-captain Ramnaresh Sarwan for 2, with an edge to wicketkeeper MS

India were starting to believe in themselves when Morton was dismissed for 27 in the next over, with Dhoni taking a juggling catch off Shanthakumaran Sreesanth.

Agarkar, who had been hounding the batsmen with his pace and accuracy, finally got a wicket when he had Marlon Samuels lbw for five. leaving the West Indies tottering on

63 for 4. Gayle and Wavell Hinds, both experienced batsmen, needed to settle things down but it didn't work

that wav and Gavle went for one. It brought Dwvane Smith to the crease and he was clearly under orders, smashing three boundaries in his first four balls before he was out lbw to Agarkar on his fifth.

Lara only came out at 97-7 and was unbeaten 40 gave them a glimmer of hope before he ran out of

Harbhajan Singh was the pick of the Indian bowlers with 3-35. Patel, Agarkar and Sreesanth all took two Earlier, scintillating fast bowling

reduced India to 162 all out with only Tendulkar (65) offering resistance. India struggled from the outset after winning the toss and electing to bat against a side buoyed by the return from injury of top fast bowler

Corey Collymore He opened the attack with Smith and India were in trouble immedi-

Dravid fell to the third ball of the

day without scoring, nicking a Smith

behind the stumps. The tall, aggressive Smith was red-hot and knocked down another big gun in Sehwag in his next over uprooting his off stump, then tempting Suresh Raina into a thick edge to

delivery to a jubilant Carlton Baugh

Gayle at slip. Smith also got Yuvraj Singh (0), bowling 10 straight overs to end with

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the DLF Cup one-day international between India and the West Indies at Kinrara Oval on Wednesday.

INDIA Dravid c Baugh b Smith Tendulkar run out (Samuels) Sehwag b Smith Raina c Gayle b Smith Yuvraj c Baugh b Smith Dhoni b Collymore Agarkar b Brayo Harbhajan c Baugh b Gayle Rudra Pratap b Gayle Sreesanth run out (Baugh) Patel not out Extras: (lb-3, w-16, nb-3) Total: (All out in 39.3 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-6, 3-38, 4-38, 5-69, 6-78, 7-156, 8-157, 9-160, 10-

102.							
Bowler	0	M	R	W			
Smith	10	2	31	4			
Collymore	8	1	41	1			
Gayle	5.3	0	13	2			
Samuels	4	0	17	0			
Bravo	6	0	16	1			
Hinds	6	0	41	0			
WESTINDIES							
Chanderpaul c Shewag b Patel 21							
Morton c Dhoni b Sreesanth							
Sarwan c Dhoni c Patel							
Hinds c and b Harbhaian							

Samuels Ibw b Agarkar

Bravo st Dhoni b Harbhajan

Gavle Ibw b Rudra Pratap **SEE PAGE 18 COL 5**

Vaughan stays with England

Cricket

of 2006 through injury.

AFP, London England captain Michael Vaughan has been awarded a new England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) contract despite missing the whole

The man who led England to Ashes victory last summer is named Wednesday among the expanded list of 13 players awarded contracts for the next year Fast bowler Simon Jones and

left-arm spinner Ashley Giles both

retain their contracts, despite -- like

Vaughan -- having suffered injuries Giles is recovering from a hip and groin problem, while Vaughan and

Jones have both had knee opera-

England squad hoping to keep the Ashes in Australia this winter; Vaughan is hoping to be fit in time for the VB Series of one-day internationals, starting in January -- and Jones will not be back until next Monty Panesar and Alastair

Giles has been named in the

Cook have been rewarded for what chairman of selectors David Graveney described as their "excellent progress". Graveney said: "This is the largest number of England 12-

month Central Contracts awarded

thus far and reflects the excellent

progress made by younger players

such as Alastair Cook and Monty Panesar.' The only man dropped from last

year's list of 12 is wicketkeeper Geraint Jones. The latter recently lost his Test place to Chris Read, although there is no place yet for him either among England's contracted players who therefore do not have a specialist

wicketkeeper among them. Graveney added: "The selectors can, of course, award Summer Contracts to individual players from next April if we feel that performances on overseas tours merit this and I am sure that both Chris Read and Geraint Jones will be competing hard to demonstrate

their value to the team this winter." **CONTRACTED PLAYERS** Ian Bell, Paul Collingwood, Alastair

Cook, Ashley Giles, Andrew Flintoff, Stephen Harmison, Matthew Hoggard, Simon Jones, Kevin Pietersen, Monty Panesar, Andrew Strauss, Marcus Trescothick, Michael Vaughan.



India spinner Harbhajan Singh (R) appeals successfully after West Indian batsman Dwayne Bravo is out stumped during their DLF tri-series match at the Kinrara Oval in Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday.