

## Premier Cricket transfer ends

SPORTS REPORTER

The Premier Cricket League transfer for the 2005-06 season concluded yesterday quietly as only 13 cricketers took part in the third and final day's procedures at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

With the heavyweights completing formality on the opening two days, there was little interest left and last year's lowly-placed Indira Road Kriya Chakra signed five cricketers.

Young Pegasus recruited three players including ex-national cricketer Mohammed Moniruzzaman from Mohammedan and Abahani wicketkeeper Golam Mortuza.

A total of 124 cricketers took part in the three-day bourse.

## Security WI organisers' top priority

AFP, Multan

The organisers of next year's cricket World Cup are taking every possible step to ensure security during the event in the Caribbean next year, a top official said Tuesday.

Foreign experts have been called in to advise on the security plans for the championship which begins in March, chairman of the World Cup 2007 organising board Ken Gordon told AFP.

"Considering the global need for security in the last five years, we have been addressing the security question thoroughly and hope to

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FRIENDS AGAIN: Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore (R) appears keenly interested in Mohammad Ashraf's wristwatch during a break of the national team's training session at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium on Tuesday.

PHOTO: ZOABER HOSSAIN SIKDER

## Ireland runs riot Bangladesh A poised to win 3-dayer

SPORTS REPORTER

The pitch at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium turned out to be batsmen's nightmare as nineteen wickets tumbled on the second day of the three-day match between Bangladesh A and Zimbabwe yesterday.

Zimbabwean pacer Anthony Ireland exploited the bounce perfectly to return with a fantastic seven-wicket haul to reduce Bangladesh A to 142 in their first innings and also caused the home team's only damage in the second essay.

Having dismissed the visitors for 113 in the second innings, the second string Bangladesh side looked well poised to win the battle - they need 89 runs to win with nine wickets intact - although it would be difficult to predict anything considering the behaviour of the surface.

Chasing a winning target of 118 in the fourth innings, Bangladesh finished the day on 29 losing Test opener Javed Omar, who paid penalty for chasing an out-swinging man-of-war-wrecker Ireland only to nick the ball to Elton Chigumbura at first slip.

Earlier in the morning, the experienced Bangladesh A batting had no answer for right-arm pacer Ireland's exquisite line under over-cast condition. The Zimbabwean cut the ball both ways to rip through the



ANTHONY IRELAND... 7/36

hosts' batting after they resumed on 69-2.

Tushar Imran's side managed to add just 73 in 23.1 overs before being bundled out four runs short of the rival first innings total. Ireland grabbed five wickets on the day after scalping both the wickets on the previous day to take 7-36 from 16 overs.

Captain Tushar was top scorer

with a 38-ball 33 that featured four boundaries while Tapash Baisya added valuable 25 runs.

The local pacemen were not behind but it was not a lone show like Ireland as Mohammad Shahjada (4-25), Tapash (3-39) and Mohammad Sharif (3-20) folded the rival second innings in just 47 overs.

At one stage, Zimbabwe A were 28 for six before number ten Sean Williams enabled their way past the 100-mark hitting an unbeaten 32 off 36 balls.

Middle-order batsman Tushar, who has been frequently in and out of the senior team, was not ready to blame the pitch entirely rather emphasised on playing more cricket on this kind of wicket.

"I appreciate this kind of wicket though the ball cut too much on the second day. The swing and bounce were not bad at all. Actually the wicket suited the seamers more and I think we can take any challenge in abroad if we are accustomed to play on this kind of surfaces at home," said Tushar.

Selector Golam Nawsher Prince was a little bit surprised by the

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## Scots vow to be competitive

SPORTS REPORTER

Scotland captain Craig Wright promised to play competitive cricket against Bangladesh in this month's two-match one-day international series.

There is little knowledge about Scotland's strength but the ICC associate members hopes that it would not be a one-sided affair.

"We understand that Bangladesh are playing good cricket in recent times and they have had the opportunity to play big opponents in world cricket as a Test playing nation. But we feel that we also have a good team to play good cricket in the series," the visiting captain told at a press conference yesterday.

He was also excited the way they got attention here.

"We are newly elected as a ODI (one-day international team) country and it is our first overseas tour that's why we are excited. It was a fantastic experience for us the way we got the attention on the first day. There is an enormous interest with the game in the country which is not the case back home," Wright observed.

"It would be a challenge for us to play in subcontinent conditions. In Scotland the weather is too cold but here it is not like that although it's the same season," he added.

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## 2011 World Cup starts in Dhaka, ends in Mumbai

Cricket

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA from New Delhi

Bangladesh will host the opening ceremony and inaugural match of the 2011 Cricket World Cup (CWC) while the final of the competition will be held in Mumbai.

The two semifinals of the cricket extravaganza will be hosted by Colombo and Lahore.

The decisions were taken here at a meeting of cricket board chiefs of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and chief executive officer (CEO) of Bangladesh here on Monday night as the four countries are jointly hosting the 2011 World Cup.

The International Cricket Council awarded the mega one-day tournament to India, Pakistan and Bangladesh in April this year.

However it was not decided which of Mumbai's two international cricket stadia will hold the final. The Indian board had previously announced that Delhi would stage the final.

"We are absolutely delighted to

get the inaugural ceremony. We know that everybody is behind us and we will make it a memorable function," Bangladesh Cricket Board CEO Mahmudur Rahman told reporters after the meeting held at the official residence of Indian board president Sharad Pawar.

Dhaka's Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium will get the privilege of hosting the opening ceremony and the first match of the competition, the meeting decided.

Pawar, also India's agriculture minister, said countries of the sub-continent have the experience of hosting the World Cup earlier and "we are happy that Bangladesh is also there this time. There will be practically no challenge in organising it and it will happen smoothly."

He said, "Most of the decisions were taken unanimously and it was a collective decision."

India held the 1987 World Cup with Pakistan and then Sri Lanka joined the two countries for the 1996 version.

"All the member countries are acting like a family and every decision was taken amicably and unanimously," Pakistan Cricket Board

president Nasim Ashraf said.

The meeting also decided to set up a central organising committee consisting of three representatives from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka for the 2011 World Cup.

Pawar will be the chairman of the organising committee named as India Pakistan Sri Lanka Bangladesh (IPSB) while the convenor will be from Pakistan and the treasurer from Sri Lanka. Each host country will also set up a local organising committee.

The first meeting of the IPSB committee will be held in Pakistan on May 19 and 20 next year. The two semifinals of the competition will be held at the Premadasa Stadium in Colombo and Gadaffi Stadium in Lahore, the meeting decided.

The central secretariat, which will coordinate the activities of various committees, will be located at the Gadaffi Stadium, Pawar said. Sources in the Board of Control for Cricket in India said that out of a total of 52 World Cup matches, Bangladesh will get to host six, India 22, Pakistan 15 and Sri Lanka nine.

The 2007 World Cup will be held in the West Indies.

## Razaq may lead Pakistan Fourth ODI against West Indies today

Cricket

AFP, Multan

Injured Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq is doubtful to play at his home ground in the fourth one-day international against the West Indies here on Wednesday.

Pakistan will also be without vice-captain Younis Khan and record-breaking batsman Mohammad Yousof.

The 36-year-old captain had three stitches in the little finger on his left hand after attempting to catch Marlon Samuels in the third match in Lahore and has not

recovered fully. "My injury has improved but I will make a final decision in the morning," said Inzamam.

Younis is still unavailable after the death of his brother last week while Yousof is staying in his hometown Lahore to look after his pregnant wife.

All-rounder Abdul Razaq will lead the team if Inzamam pulls out.

Inzamam said Pakistan's reserves can make up for the loss of key players.

"We have called up Shahid Afridi and Faisal Iqbal and hope that the youngsters take this opportunity and help Pakistan wrap up the series, but for that they

will have to work hard," said Inzamam, whose team lead the five-match series 2-0.

Pakistan won the second match at Faisalabad by a narrow margin of two wickets before recording an emphatic seven-wicket win in the third match in Lahore. The first match was washed out in Rawalpindi.

Inzamam said a series win would boost his team ahead of their tour of South Africa next month. They have already won the Test series against the West Indies 2-0.

"When you win a series it gives you confidence and we need that before going to South Africa. I think through hard work we can win in

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## Did U Know?

The famous Indian spin quartet of yesteryears - Bishen Singh Bedi, Erapalli Prasanna, Srinivas Venkataraghavan and Bhagwat Chandrasekhar -- played together in only a single Test.



Jaspal Rana

(India's star shooter) "The government seems to know nothing about how sports should be run and most disciplines would be better off without its involvement."

## What to WATCH

TEN Sports

Pakistan v West Indies Fourth ODI

Live at 11:45 am

ESPN

Sportscenter India

Live at 9:30 pm

English Premier Football League

Wigan Athletic v Arsenal

Live at 1:30 am (Thursday)

STAR Sports

English Premier Football League

Chelsea v Newcastle

Live at 1:30 am (Thursday)

## Liu sets new Asian mark

AFP, Doha

China's Olympic champion Liu Xiang won the 110 metres hurdles title here Tuesday in a new Asian record time as drugs and controversy again enveloped the Asian Games.

Liu, the world record holder, clocked a time of 13.15sec to beat

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## Malaysia drub Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER



Doha.

Bangladesh, who beat Oman 5-3 in their last group match and qualified for the 5th-8th classification play-offs with their only win in the competition so far, will take on Taipei in the 7th-8th place play-off tomorrow morning. It will be the country's last action at the Asiad, which concludes on Friday.

India, who crushed Taipei 12-1 later on the day, will meet Malaysia in the 5th place play-off. Raghunath Vokkliga fired five goals for India, who led 3-1 at half time.

Bangladesh, without injured defender Mamunur Rahman Chayan who was taken off the field

after being hit by Omani player Hossam Hassan during their previous game, failed to survive an opening salvo at the Al Rayyan Hockey Stadium and went two goals behind by nine minutes.

Maksud Alam Habul reduced the arrears in the 16th minute but the Malaysians rallied ahead to take a 5-1 first-half lead. Bangladesh defended well after the break against a barrage of rival attacks as Malaysia managed only goal through Amin Rahim who scored twice. Jiwa Mohan also netted two goals with Boon Chua and Mohammad Razi adding one goal apiece.

Hong Kong finished ninth when they blanked Oman 4-0 with two goals in each half in the first classification play-off.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh chess team stretched their collection to nine points after six rounds when they beat United Arab Emirates 2-1

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China's sprint star Liu Xiang waves to the cheering crowd after winning the men's 110m hurdles gold in the 15th Asian Games at the Khalifa Stadium on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP



Scotland captain Craig Wright addresses a press briefing at the Sheraton Hotel in the city on Tuesday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Boje calls it quits

Cricket

AFP, Johannesburg

Nicky Boje, South Africa's leading Test spin bowler, announced his retirement Tuesday on the day he was due to join the squad for the first Test against India starting at the Wanderers Stadium Friday.

His sudden retirement came as a shock to selection convenor Haroon Lorgat and coach Mickey Arthur. Lorgat said it was the first he had heard of the left-arm orthodox spinner's decision. Arthur also said he had not been contacted by the player.

Boje, 33, played in 43 Tests in which he took 100 wickets at an average of 42.65. A left-handed batsman, he scored 1312 runs at an average of 25.23.

He faxed a letter to Cricket South Africa chief executive Gerald Majola Tuesday morning before announcing his retirement in a statement issued through the SA Cricketers' Association.

"It is with regret that we learnt of Nicky's decision because his inclusion in the Test squad to play against India shows that the selectors still have faith in him at this

level," said Majola. "However, we have to respect his decision."

In his statement, Boje said: "I have decided to retire from international cricket immediately and I am accordingly unavailable to form part of the Proteas squad for this season. I have had eleven years of international cricket and will always

Boje would continue to play domestic cricket. "Nicky has been a committed cricketer wherever he has played the game and has been a role model for all young players. We are grateful that he will still be part of the game in South Africa."

Boje's decision may have been prompted by the recall to the national squad of left-armed wrist spinner Paul Adams, but Lorgat said the media had misinterpreted Adams' selection. "The impression that Nicky was to play second fiddle to Paul is completely wrong."

Lorgat said Adams had been included in a 15-man squad primarily to check on his progress and for him to be part of the national set-up for the first time since 2004.

"It was to send a signal to all our spin bowlers that we are searching for a quality spinner," he said. Lorgat said he would investigate Boje's situation before discussing with his fellow selectors whether or not to name a replacement for the first Test.

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