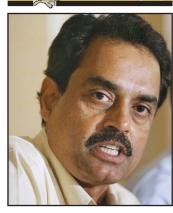
James Lillywhite, who was the captain of England in the inaugural Test, eventually went on to become the first cricketer turned





### Dilip Vengsarkar

(India's chief cricket selector) "If you feel someone has potential, you back him to the hilt but again, potential is not the only thing, you have to score runs and get wickets



### **ESPN**

Australia v England Third Ashes Test. Day One Live at 8:15 am FIFA Club World Cup Club America v Barcelona Live at 4:00 pm Sportscenter India

### Live at 9:30 pm STAR Sports

New Zealand v Sri Lanka Second Test, Day One Live at 3:30 am (Friday)

## Dhaka prevail to lift title

**SPORTS REPORTER** 

Dhaka emerged as the venue champions of National Cricket Championship when they defeated Kishoreganj by 16 runs in a lowscoring affair at the Mymensingh Stadium yesterday.

Having won the toss. Dhaka could not take advantage and were bowled out for 129 runs but Kishoregani outdid them as they were bowled out for 113 runs in 41

Skipper Sharifullah lead from the front as he took three for 24 while Alam took three wickets as well. His counterpart Moni Bal also showed his teammates how it is to be done, top-scoring for Kishoreganj with 23

Earlier, Dhaka only had contributions from Sunny Reza (25) and Golam Faiyaz (25). Moni took three wickets, giving his side a chance to lift the venue title but his hopes were shattered by his batsmen's inept-

### **SA Games to** have cricket

AFP, Dhaka

The South Asian Games scheduled to be held in Bangladesh in 2008 will feature cricket for the first time, an official said here on Wednesday.

"We have decided to include cricket in the next South Asian Games in Dhaka," Ishtiaq Ahmed Karen, the deputy general secretary of the Bangladesh Olympic Association, told AFP.

"We hope all teams including cricket giants India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will send their teams to the Games. India has already given its go-ahead," he said.

The organisers said they would discuss the proposals with the countries and the International Cricket Council to finalise the sched-

The South Asian Games featuring eight countries is a biennial event in which contingents from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

and the Maldives participate.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

# Hosts win a thriller

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Last batsman Mohammad Shahjada smashed leg-spinner Graeme Cremer for the winning boundary through point to ensure Bangladesh A's thrilling one-wicket victory over their Zimbabwean counterparts at the Mirpur Sher-e-

Bangla National Stadium yesterday. There was no shortage of excitement in a low-scoring affair on a bowler-friendly pitch, especially the way the match finished just after the lunch break on the third and final day.

After the top order batsmen's frantic performance on a lively pitch where good footwork and patience were key to success, last pair Enamul Haque and Shahjada kept cool to collect the remaining nine runs to reach the target of 118 for nine in their second innings.

The home team looked set for a comfortable win when two overnight batsmen Tushar Imran and Raiin Saleh made a confident start. taking the score to 63 after resuming on 29 for one. But the evenly poised battle was open once the most successful bowler of the match Anthony Ireland tempted

Cricket

Bangladesh A skipper Tushar (23) to pull straight to the safe hands of Sean Williams at square leg.

The hosts lost two more wickets within six runs with the dismissal of Rajin (23) and Alok Kapali (3) and both the teams went to lunch in a vulnerable position, the hosts needing 12 runs and Zimbabwe A three wickets, to win.

The hope began to fade as Mohammad Sharif (6) called for trouble, giving a catch to Williams at mid-off while unnecessarily trying to charge Ireland while Tapash (12) mistimed a shot against Cremer to be caught by Williams at cover. They left a tough task but the last pair survived to see victory in 47.1 overs.

Ireland took three wickets for 38 to return with a match haul of 10-74 while Cremer chipped in with 3-25.

Though there was evidence that the local batsmen were in a hurry and made a simple task difficult, coach Shaun Williams was not ready to blame his batters.

"Obviously throughout the match both sides found it difficult to bat on. We talked a lot about trying to hang in there and play as straight as we can and leave deliveries which were in the right place to leave. At some point you got to try we did not execute as well as we might have," explained Shaun.

"I don't think you can blame the batsmen in this low scoring match rather you have to give credit to the bowlers. The pitch was sporting for the bowlers and we need these sorts of wickets in Bangladesh as we try to give our boys experience when they go abroad.

"This pitch is pretty similar to what we see in Australia or England. Obviously we are happy to sneak a win but we need to improve in a lot of areas especially with our batsmen's shot selection and tightening their defence a little bit," he added.

The two sides meet again in a four-day match starting at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium on Friday.

### **SCORES IN BRIEF**

**ZIMBABWE A:** 146 and 113. BANGLADESH A: 142 and 118-9 in 47.1 overs (Javed 9, Rajin 23, Tushar 23, Kapali 3, Manzarul 7, Sahagir 14, Salahuddin 0, Sharif 6, Tapash 12, Enamul 3 not out, Shahajada 6 not out, extras 12, Ireland 3-38. Garwe 1-19 Chigumbura 1-20, Creamer 3-25). Result: Bangladesh A won by one

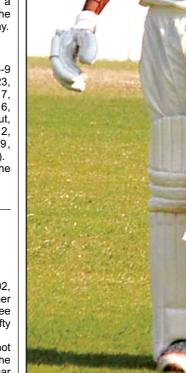
## Samuels brings WI win last hundred against India in 2002,

Samuels and Brian Lara (13 not for a boundary.

> Inzamamul Haq, Mohammad disastrous start as paceman Daren Powell dismissed Afridi off his fourth ball and then had Imran Farhat caught in the slip in his sixth

Fellow paceman Dwayne Smith then dismissed Mohammad Hafeez (one) and Shoaib Malik (nought) to leave Pakistan struggling at 47-4 off 17 overs.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2



Bangladesh A team's last pair Enamul Haque (L) and Shahjada leave the field smiling after their one-wicket victory over Zimbabwe A on the third and final day of their three-day match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

### Visa to ease **WC** travel

SPORTS REPORTER

Cricket fans who wish to travel to the Caribbean for next year's cricket World Cup are provided with a 'safety net' as a special, single country visa will be provided as part of a security measure taken by the tournament committee.

"The Special Visa is a safety net for cricket fans. In implementing this decision for the visa requirement, the host countries have created a Single Domestic Space which will provide for hassle free movement of cricket fans," said Mia Mottley, Deputy Prime Minister of Barbados and chair of the Caribbean Community Sub Committee for World Cup 2007 security.

The visa will be required for travel to the countries between the January 15 and May 15, 2007 and issuing will start on 15 December

The countries in the Single Domestic Space are Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Visa issuing sites will be located n the host countries as well as Toronto, New York, Miami, New Delhi, India, Sydney, and London.

Application for the visa could be completed and downloaded online via the CA Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPAC) website at www.caricomimpacs.org. A processing fee of US\$100 could also be paid online through credit card facilities.

It is anticipated that the turn around time for persons receiving their visas would be a maximum of

### No meeting or procession at **BFF Bhaban**

**SPORTS REPORTER** 

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) prohibited any kind of procession or meeting, unapproved by the governing body of football, to be neld inside the BFF Bhaban.

BFF general secretary Anwarul Hoque Helal announced this after yesterday's BFF meeting which came to the conclusion following footballers' sit-in programme in the BFF Bhaban premises.

Irked by four-day programme the BFF -- claiming the programme and the footballers' acts as unsporting, indecent and unlawful -- had blasted

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

Pro League

# Transfer from today

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The much-awaited footballers' transfer for the inaugural Professional Football League begins today after repeated delays by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF).

The league, originally scheduled for a October start, is expected to be launched on February 15, 2007 after the two-month long bourse. This is the first transfer in the city after a long two-year gap.

Unlike previous transfers for domestic leagues, players need not to turn out at the federation office to enrol their names for clubs. The formalities would have to be completed by the clubs, on papers supplied by the BFF, and submit them to the federation for player

It was learned that the big guns will take some more time and are interested to submit their full players

The BFF will receive documents from 4-8pm everyday for the next two months. The timing of the midseason window for transfer will be

decided after completion of the

completed their registration for the league yesterday with Sheikh Russel Krira Chakra, Chittagong and Khulna Abahanis and Chittagong Mohammedan bringing up the rear, will be drawn by a lottery for the fixture in a welcome move

The pattern used in the country on previous occasions -- by their standings of the previous league -usually burdened the top teams with the load of playing a number of big matches in a row, especially towards the end of a competition.

in the draw. One of the main flaws of the league,

which will run for nearly six months, is of having no relegation. The idea might make teams of lesser strength ignorant, especially the clubs outside from Dhaka who have been struggling to form good squads.

Although the formalities begin

The 12 participating teams, who

Malaysia.

The Pro-League will see all teams -- eight from Dhaka, two from Chittagong and one each from Khulna and Sylhet -- equally treated

today, most of the big names have all but completed their homework with Abahani and Muktijoddha SEE PAGE 18 COL 3

Pakistan will battle for bronze against Japan also today.



### Scotland cricketers train at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium on Wednesday

### today SPORTS REPORTER Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar will get a chance to look at the Scotland cricket team today when Cricket Board (BCB) Academy side

Chittagong Divisional Stadium. Hard-hitting batsman Nadif Chowdhury, who has won a place in the national side, will lead the local

in a warm-up match at the

Scotland's tour

opener in Ctg

"We have very little knowledge about the current Scotland team that's why the warm-up match will be helpful to us. We will watch Scotland's tour opener tomorrow to get an idea about their strength,' said Bashar yesterday.

"I think there is no scope to underestimate them because they have some players with county experiences," he added.

The BCB Academy team: Nazmus Sadat, Tamim Iqbal, Zahirul Islam, Marshal Ayub, Nadif Chowdhury (captain), Sirajullah Khadem, Sohrawardi Shuvo, Israk Sonnet, Mosharraf Hossain, Dollar Mahmud, Shafaq Al Jabir and

CHINA STUN PAKISTAN IN HOCKEY

### Bangladesh chess team held by **Philippines**

**SPORTS REPORTER** 

Bangladesh ended round seven of the mixed team classical chess event at the ninth place after sharing points with Philippines on Tuesday.

The 1.5-1.5 draw at the Al Dana Indoor Hall took Bangladesh's collection to 10.5 points, level with Syria. Bangladesh and Syria were facing each other in yesterday's eighth round of the 9-round Swiss League competition.

For Bangladesh, Shamima Akhter Liza collected full point when she beat Philippines' Jedara Docena. It was the young players' fourth win in the classical competi-

Grandmaster Reefat Bin Sattar suffered his fifth loss in seven matches when he crashed to IM Ronald Dabelo. IM Enamul Islam Rajib's fourth draw in the league, against Darwin Laylo,

ensured Bangladesh another half a point. India were on the verge of bagging the gold as they stayed atop the

team table with 18.5 points followed by China (14 points), Indonesia, Kazakhstan (13), Turkmenistan, Qatar, Uzbekistan and Iran (12).

Bangladesh hockey team will round off their campaign at the Asiad when they fight for the 7th-8th place against Taipei. India play for 5th-6th places with

Meanwhile, China pulled off another big upset when they came from behind to edge Pakistan 2-1 and set a final clash against Korea.

In the first semifinal, Pakistan led 1-0 with Rehan Butt's 20-minute strike but Yang Yu equalised in the dying seconds to take the match into extra time where Fenghui Lu slammed a 79-minute golden goal.

group phase. In the other semis, a second-half brace by Jong Hyun-jang helped South Korea blank Japan 2-0

China had also shocked India in the

PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER



unbeaten on 100 to help his team recover from an early wobble and added 141 runs for the third wicket with Shivnarine Chanderpaul (60) as the tourists achieved the target with 15.1 overs to spare. 71 as a depleted Pakistan team managed 209 in 49.5 overs after winning the toss at the Multan The West Indies, trailing 2-1, need to win the fifth and final match in Karachi on Saturday to square against Sri Lanka in June 2003 and

his 17th boundary to reach his second one-day hundred. It also

Samuels hit Abdul Razzag for

Richardson in Karachi in 1987. Samuels, whose last fifty came was harsh on recalled leg-spinner Shahid Afridi whom he hit for three boundaries and completed his fifty

out) completed the victory when the West Indies captain hit Rao Iftikhar

Pakistan, missing captain Yousuf and Younis Khan, had a

Hameed led the recovery through a 62-run fifth wicket stand with Faisal Iqbal. The 28-year-old



West Indies' Marlon Samuels is about to have a go at a delivery on his way to scoring a century while Pakistan

# Ponting bucks Symonds up

wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal looks on during the fourth one-day international in Multan yesterday.

Third Ashes Test starts today

Cricket

Australian captain Ricky Ponting has backed Andrew Symonds to deliver in the third Ashes Test at the WACA Ground after his surprise Test recall was confirmed here Wednesday.

Speaking after his side's final training session for the third Test, which starts Thursday, Ponting confirmed that Symonds had been chosen ahead of local batsman Adam Voges for the match in which Australia can regain the Ashes from England.

The Australian skipper has long been a Symonds-supporter and it

was on his recommendation that the explosive Queenslander was a surprise inclusion in the 1999 World Cup, which launched his successful one-day career.

It will be Symonds' first Test since playing against South Africa in Johannesburg in April and comes at a time when many including the man himself, helieved his Test career was over after 10 modest Tests for a batting average of 19 and bowling aver-Although he is probably just

Watson, Ponting again backed Symonds to perform. "I am pretty confident in him actually," Ponting said. "I have

keeping the spot warm for fellow

Queensland all-rounder Shane

the last few days. "He might have thought his Test

watched him pretty closely over

career has passed him on, but he is really excited about being back in the team again and right now he feels better about his game than he probably ever has before. "We all know what a great talent he is and he hasn't shown it at Test

level yet, hopefully over the next few days we will see some of that." Ponting said Symonds was a wiser player for his previous omis-

Symonds bowled both spin and medium pace with success at the WACA earlier in the season for Queensland and Ponting said the

likely nature of the Test pitch, SEE PAGE 18 COL 1