Biman paddlers

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Biman clinched the men's team title in the Victory Day table tennis tournament when they blanked South East Club 3-0 in the final at the Woodenfloor gymnasium

bag V-Day title

Ankhi of Lalbagh lifted the girls' U-16 single crown beating her teammate Sharmin 3-1 in the final while Palash of Sunnydale emerged the boys' U-16 champion with a 3-0 victory over his teammate Tanjir.

BDR first office league champs

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Rifles won the Design Zone First Office Handball League title defeating Bangladesh Police 32-16 in a one-sided final at the Outer Stadium handball court

Man-of-the-tournament Khairuzzaman banged 12 goals while Saiduzzaman nine for the winners who led the first half 22-8.

Ruud lifts lid

FROM PAGE 20

Once the darling of Old Trafford, van Nistelrooy has now conceded that the manner of his eventual exit was 'tragic' as well as insisting that Ferguson should have treated him

"I do consider it kind of tragic," van Nistelroov added.

"After all, Ferguson was the man who was there for me during my serious knee injury at PSV Eindhoven and even came to my

"The way it all went down in the end does say something about the

"But to me that does not permit you to treat people that way.'

Pacesetters

FROM PAGE 20 Middlesbrough in a relegation

Charlton have now gone 24 away matches without a victory.

Middlesbrough's win left West Ham United in the bottom three despite a battling 0-0 draw at Fulham. The struggling east London side, without an away goal since August, had Paul Konchesky sent off five minutes from time.

Muktijoddha

FROM PAGE 17

goalkeepers Aminul and Titumeer. defenders Hassan Al Mamun and Titu, medios Arman Mia, Saiful and Biddvut and forward Kanchan who all signed their contract for one year.

Centre-back Raiani, now in India, is expected to sign the documents as soon as he arrives.

Drug duo

FROM PAGE 17

Hamid also disagreed that Akhtar's decision not to sign a contract with the PCB could give him any leeway.

"Akhtar has not signed the latest contract, but he has signed an identical contract before and that contract in its provision is identical and under clause 3 of the contract he was bound not only by the PCB but by the ICC anti-doping policies as well," he added Hamid, however, refused to

comment on the decision to exonerate the players

"It is now for the CAS to decide,"

Bowlers toil

FROM PAGE 17

Needing to staunch the flow of runs, the Indians were forced to call back the likes of Zaheer and Munaf as the afternoon wore on. Munaf finally got Van Vuuren, brilliantly taken at slip by Laxman. and when Harbhajan Singh came on in the 54th over, an impetuous charge from Gobind presented Mahendra Singh Dhoni with a simple stumping. By then he had made 88 from

128 balls, and the Indians gave him an ovation as the players trooped off for tea. Harbhajan added two more

wickets in the final session, and there was one for VRV Singh as well, as the Indians were forced to pull out all the stops in stifling conditions.

After the monotony of repeated net sessions though, this was one step closer to what awaits at Kingsmead on Boxing Day.

KP brands

FROM PAGE 17

But for all Pietersen's success against Warne, the spinner made amends when he bowled his Hampshire teammate around his leas in the second innings at Adelaide where his four-wicket haul turned what looked like a draw into a six-wicket win for Australia.

"The batsman might win the battle but never the war," Pietersen admitted. "It takes just one good ball or one stupid shot and it's 'See you later'.

Gambhir, Patel to return | 'Brian ahead of Sachin'

Cricket

REUTERS, Durban

Pace bowler Munaf Patel is set to win back his place in the Indian team for the second Test against South Africa in Durban on Tuesday after recovering from an ankle injury.

Patel missed the last three oneday internationals and the first Test in Johannesburg after injuring his ankle in the second one-dayer in Durban on November 23.

He bowled in a match for the first time since hurting his ankle in a drawn two-day practice game against a KwaZulu-Natal Invitation XI in Durban on Saturday, taking two for 25 from eight overs

India coach Greg Chappell said he had been heartened by Patel's perfor-

"He's one of our top bowlers, so if he's fit he'll play," Chappell told Reuters on Sunday. "He seems to have pulled up all right today (Sunday), so it looks promising."

India will also consider selecting Gautam Gambhir to strengthen their

Gambhir was not in the team who won the first Test by 123 runs in Johannesburg last Monday, India's first Test win in South Africa.

But after top-scoring with 79 in the practice match, Gambhir seems an appropriate replacement for the struggling Wasim Jaffer. South Africa beat India by 157

runs in the one-day international in Durban on their way to a convincing 4-0 series triumph. But India turned the tables dramatically with their win in Johannesburg

and another victory in Durban would hand South Africa a third home series defeat in as many seasons following losses to England and Australia. South African captain Graeme

eeling the heat. "Our performance at home is something we really pride ourselves on, so not performing in a home Test match is always going to create

pressure," Smith told a news confer-

Smith acknowledged his team were

"The public are quite demanding, which shows that they care. They want results.

Smith said he wanted an improved performance from spearhead Makhaya Ntini, who looked lacklustre in the first Test despite taking six wickets.

"He (Ntini) would probably say that he wasn't at his best at the Wanderers," Smith said. "He's also a guy who needs to bowl a lot, and in one-day cricket he doesn't really get overs under his belt.

"But towards the end of our bowling in Johannesburg he was starting to hit his straps.

"He's a professional and he's come back from an ordinary Test match a few times, and there's no doubt in my mind that he will bounce

Smith said South Africa were likely to replace Herschelle Gibbs with AB de Villiers at the top of their batting order with Gibbs moving to number

Dalmiya sinking fast

Cricket

CRICINFO. undated

At the working committee meeting of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, two more nails, perhaps the final ones, were drilled into the coffin of Jagmohan Dalmiya, the former president of the Indian board and the

In a move that is widely being interpreted as a switching of loyalties, Brijesh Patel, a staunch Dalmiya loyalist, was given a post on a BCCI

And perhaps more damningly, the representative of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB), Saradindu Pal, said that his association respected the board's decision to expel Dalmiva

The CAB's secretary (Pal) told the board's working committee on Sunday that the CAB respects the board's decision (taken at Jaipur on December 16) by 29 votes in favour to expel Mr Dalmiya," N Srinivasan, the board's treasurer, and a man seen to be one of the driving forces behind the current regime's efforts to see the back of Dalmiya, told reporters in Mumbai.

"He (Pal) also said that Mr Dalmiya no longer functions as its president and an emergency meeting has been convened on the 27th (January) to take steps to implement the BCCI's decision," Srinivasan

With this, it appears that Dalmiya's fate in cricket administration in India is all but sealed, for the moment, at

Equally significant was the fact that Patel, the former Test batsman and currently president of the

Outside of Bengal he was one of the few Dalmiya loyalists, and it was no coincidence that he was the only prominent member of the board not to get a posting in any of the board's

20-odd committees in the last AGM. Patel is on the newly formed committee that will decide on how to disburse the funds the BCCI has allocated towards the development of other sports in India.

He is joined on this committee by MP Pandove of Punjab and Major SS Alhuwalia from the Services. It's worth noting that no Ranji matches of either Karnataka or Bengal were to be telecast live when the BCCI announced its plans for the coverage of the current domestic season.

Karnataka remains one of the marquee teams in the domestic competition and Bengal were runners-up last year, and yet it was decided that none of their games would be shown live.

Patel's return to the fold helped along by the fact that a committee needed to be formed to decide on the requests from Abhinav Bindra, the shooter, and Karan Rastogi the Indian Davis Cup team member and upcoming tennis star, seeking financial assistance from the BCCI.

The board had received these requests in writing from the players themselves and not through the respective sporting federations.

It was then decided that the financial assistance would be disbursed directly to players who were in with a chance of Olympic medals. Although no formal policy has been laid down by the BCCI on how this will happen, the formation of a committee to deliberate on the issue is the first step towards concrete action.

With regard to more routine Karnataka State Cricket Association, matters, it was decided cricket will not be a part of the 2010 Commonwealth Games to be held in Delhi.

The working committee meeting of the board cited the Indian team's packed fixtures as the main reason. The working committee discussed the invitation to take part in the 2010 Commonwealth Games and felt that the Future Tours Programme as it stands now is too crowded and would not lend itself to participate in the Games," Srinivasan said.

The meeting also decided to form a committee to finalise the parameters for the players' contracts. The committee comprises Inderjit Singh Bindra, president of the Punjab Cricket Association, Shashank Manohar, vice-president of the board, Niranjan Shah, honorary secretary of the BCCI, Ratnakar Shetty, the administrative head and

"At this moment I can't say what the parameters will be but we will try to find the right balance," said Srinivasan. "The board members were concerned with the performance of the team and felt that players should be motivated to do

The meeting also did not discuss the nomination of Sharad Pawar, the BCCI president, for the post of ICC

However. Cricinfo has learned that the BCCI is "more likely to nominate than not nominate" Pawar for the post, by the January 1, 2007 deadline, in the words of a source.

When the BCCI held the CK Nayudu awards on November 4, the same day it inaugurated its new offices at the Wankhede Stadium, representatives of approximately 20 associate members of the ICC were invited to attend and a "majority" of them accepted and were present.

Surran under fire

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Zimbabwe's recent poor results have led to renewed calls for Kevin Curran, the coach, to be replaced and also for more effort to be made to entice leading players who have walked away from the national

game to return The latter seems increasingly unlikely as the World Cup draws closer, but the former is a growing

Curran has never been popular among some sections of the media and, so Cricinfo has learned, among certain players, but in fairness to him he has been faced with rebuilding a side decimated by internal squabbling and the much-

publicised player exodus. However, while defeats in South Africa and in the Champions Trophy were not unexpected, the way the side performed was not well received, and a 5-0 series whitewash in Bangladesh finally saw the veneer of acceptance

8 before forcing Indira to finish on

Victoria (DCS), Biman v Partex

(Fatullah), City v Kalabagan (BKSP)

at 9am; Sonargaon v Mohammedan

(DCS), Brothers v Pegasus (BKSP),

Abahani v Indira Road (Fatullah) at

MOHAMMEDAN: 115-9 in 20 overs

(Imtiaz 12, Aftab 66, extras 6;

Mashrafee 4-18, Ziaur 1-34,

ABAHANI: 106-9 in 20 overs

SCORES IN BRIEF

Manzarul 2-18).

Curran returned to Zimbabwe clearly unhappy with what had gone on in Bangladesh, and he added to potential discontent within the camp when he publicly called for some senior players to be axed for "playing wrong cricket at the wrong time" Given the paucity of people

knocking at the door for inclusion in the squad and his own fragile standing, it was not the most tactful of remarks Meanwhile, Zimbabwe's

Independent reported that Ozias Byute, the board's managing director and a man not renowned for his cricketing pedigree, had offered his dollar's worth. "The board will meet to review

Zimbabwe's performances but we have a challenge ahead of the World Cup," he reportedly said. "But in the true nature of being

Zimbabwean, we believe no challenge is insurmountable." A less tactful source said it would be more accurate to say that Byute was probably blissfully unaware of how bad things were rather than a born

extra 1: Tapash 2-26, Sakib 3-17).

Result: Mohammedan won by 9

when Byute's comments about 7imbabwe's return to Test cricket in November 2007 was raised. When the ICC feebly rolled over

and agreed to them being readmitted a few months ago, it seemed a poor idea and one that stunk of compromise -- Peter Chingoka, the ZC president, may have many critics here, but he can smooth talk the world's cricket administrators to good effect. "It's too early to rule out

Zimbabwe's return to Test cricket. Byute said.

"We have arranged a number of four-day matches and we'll assess the team's competitiveness in the long run. But our guys impressed in

It may have escaped Bvute's notice, but Bangladesh were not anywhere near full strength as their main side were playing ODIs

20, Manzrul 10, Mashud 15 not out,

Taposh Gosh 3-19).

KALABAGAN: 147-6 in 20 overs 20; Azim 3-22)

Arafat 1-25, Rashedul 1-16, Reazul Result: Partex won by 6 wickets.

Result: Young Pegasus won by 50

of Sachin'

SPÖRT

Glenn McGrath on Sunday named West Indies legend Brian Lara as the best batsman he ever bowled to in his international career, "just slightly ahead" of Sachin Tendulkar

When asked to pick his toughest opponent in his 13-year-old career, McGrath picked Lara ahead of Tendulkar and said he was always driven to give his best when bowling against those two.

'To me it was always about how you went against the guys who were classed the best in the world. McGrath said here on Sunday after announcing he would guit international cricket after the World Cup in April next.

"I feel, personally, that on his day Brian Lara was probably the guy who was the standout, just slightly ahead of Sachin.' Interestingly, McGrath has dismissed Lara 15 times in Tests, just four less than his biggest 'bunny' Michael Atherton whom he claimed 19 times. He dismissed Tendulkar

The most successful fast bowler in Tests with 555 scalps, McGrath said his mental strength was his greatest asset.

"I feel what I actually did with the hall and the skill level -- there's a lot of other guys out there who had more skills to swing the ball, do well with the ball.

"My strengths were my accuracy, hitting that same spot, the bounce I'd get and the mental side

Lara to keep on playing

PTI, Melbourne

Retirements might be in vogue but West Indies batting legend Brian Lara appears in no mood to hang his boots now, saying he wants to play Test cricket for as long as he can.

The 37-year-old batsman however might consider quitting one-day cricket after the World Cup in his homeland in March-April next. "I cut back on one-day cricket a

couple of months ago because Test cricket is what I really love," said the West Indies skipper. "Test cricket is the true test of your ability and that's the one game I'd

love to play a bit longer. (Quitting oneday cricket) is looking that way. Since taking over the captaincy again, it has had an effect on me mentally and physically," said Lara who is holidaying in Australia.

Inter halfway

FROM PAGE 20 Inter went agonisingly close to levelling the score shortly after the break when Maxwell's low cross was nudged to the back post by Hernan Crespo, but Adriano's outstretched boot just failed to connect.

The Brazilian persevered and he finally ended his barren spell -which dated back to March 29 when he netted against Villarreal in the Champions League -- diving low to head home Luis Figo's cross in the

Inter surged ahead 10 minutes later when another Figo cross was turned into his own net by Loria.

Play was briefly suspended as Atalanta fans behind Julio Cesar's goal hurled firecrackers onto the pitch, one of which almost hit the

Julio Cesar pulled off a fine save to deny Massimo Donati and Maxwell cleared Ariatti's header off the goalline as Inter came under the cosh in the closing stages.

Roman bares

FROM PAGE 20

League, the FA Cup, the Carling Cup - I am interested in and just happy about. I don't have an opinion about Chelsea plaving in a Super League. My feeling would be that you lose something of the beauty of the Premiership by joining something not defined at the moment. When Chelsea play a Carling Cup game in a small city and it could result in a draw - the excitement, the spirit, the atmosphere - that's the real beauty of football in England.'

The 40-year-old portrayed himself as a genuine fan. "Something that really disappoints me is when Chelsea lose. I cannot stand it. Winning the first Premiership was a moment of happiness and I could talk about that for ages. This is a joy very different for Chelsea fans who'd been waiting for this victory for 50 years. I was very happy for myself, not only because Chelsea won the Premiership, but because the victory made so many other Chelsea fans happy. Being an observer to that made me happy.' He also reassured the fans that

he is here to stay. "People who know me said I will win one or two

Aus plan fitting farewell

Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

Australia go into the fourth Ashes Test beginning Tuesday seeking to remain on track for a series whitewash that would be a fitting farewell to retiring bowlers Shane Warne and Glenn McGrath.

Both Warne, 37. Test cricket's greatest wicket-taker, and McGrath, 36, third in the Test bowling rankings, announced last week that they would retire from Test cricket at the end of the current Ashes series.

an unassailable 3-0 lead to regain the Ashes, the departure of the two bowlers has given the home side added impetus to complete a clean sweep in the final two Tests. Warne is poised to become the first bowler to capture 700 Test

With Australia already holding

wickets in the fourth Test, needing just one wicket in his 144th Test before his hometown fans at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG). Warne, who has tormented England batsmen with 186 wickets in 34 Tests over 13 years, is

expected to receive an emotional

send-off in Melbourne and Sydney

as the Australians vie to emulate

Warwick Armstrong team's 5-0 Ashes sweep here 85 years ago. The showpiece Test of Australian cricket is likely to create a new world record for a single day's attendance with all tickets sold for Boxing Day to surpass the 90,800 for the second day of the fifth Test against the West Indies at the MCG in February 1961.

Warne says the job is halffinished as Ricky Ponting's Aussies eye another humiliation

"As far as I'm concerned we've got two Test matches to play and I just want to finish the series on a

gh." Warne said. 'I think if we can win 5-0 that would be a fantastic achievement for a great team."

With team departures dominating headlines ahead of the Melbourne Test, coach John Buchanan said he would work on keeping his team focused on

"With a range of news around us it might be a bit of a distraction but hopefully we are a better team than that," Buchanan said Friday.

"That's something we will talk about at training dealing with the distractions that will continue over the next two Test matches, and really try to finish on a high

win the Ashes but also establish a huge gap between us and England

seize the urn off England, rebounding spectacularly from last year's series loss in England where it relinquished the Ashes after 16 years' ownership.

Australia romping to massive wins over Freddie Flintoff's England team in Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth. Australia has only been dismissed twice in six innings highlighting England's inability to take

wickets after terminating the

Australians' innings eight times in

the 2005 series.

tions amid conjecture that his job will be under review.

One casualty is likely to be wicketkeeper Geraint Jones, who registered a pair of ducks in Perth and has scored only 63 runs at 10.50 in the series. Chris Read is expected to be behind the stumps in the fourth Test.

Skipper Flintoff is determined his side will bounce back in the

Melbourne and Sydney Tests. "It hurts a lot, but we have to get over it (losing Ashes) and we've got two big Test matches still to play," he said.

"There are a lot of lads who want to prove they can win a Test match in Australia and prove they can play against Australia.

The Ashes series may be over as a contest but that hasn't dampened an insatiable appetite by cricket fans with officials anticipating a record attendance for an

With attendances of 95,000 likely over the opening three days' play the record of 350,354 -set in the vast arena in the third Test of the 1936-37 Ashes series in the Don Bradman era -- is under threat.

England, sensing a changing the guard with Warne and McGrath going, is looking to regroup for future Ashes battles. 'We've got another two years

before we play these guys and it's kind of starting now," batsman Paul Collingwood said. "I'm sure the boys in the dressing room will want to put their

hands up and see where they've gone wrong individually, and regroup and restart, starting in

Kim sees trouble ahead

Cricket

Two legendary cricketers announced their retirement from Australia's national side this week, but former captain Kim Hughes believes it is now better able to handle the loss of superstars. Champion spinner Shane

Warne and veteran paceman Glenn McGrath both announced their decisions to guit, following batsmen Damien Martyn into retirement and signalling a period of upheaval for the national side It last faced a similar situation

Lillee, Greg Chappell and Rod Marsh retired in 1984. They left a gaping void that took several Warne will hang up his whites after the Ashes series, while McGrath's final challenge will be

the World Cup in the West Indies.

Justin Langer, Matthew

some 20 years ago, when Dennis

Hayden and Adam Gilchrist are also in the twilight of their international careers. So the next two years will see a major generational change in an Australian side currently on a

10 Test winning streak. Hughes, who led Australia during the turbulence following the departures of Lillee, Chappell and Marsh, said Saturday the latest retirements would dent Australia's dominance at Test level -- but that it would be a soft

outstanding opponent, compared with the fearsome West Indies in the 1980s, and said domestic cricket now had more depth "I think we won't win as many

He pointed out there was no

games," Hughes said. "Where we've got wins in the past, there

10 and that sort of thing. 'Sides are going to hang on a bit more, because whenever we

have been in trouble we've thrown the ball to either Warne or McGrath or both. Warne leaves the game with Australia holding every major trophy available to it after an

amazing period of success.

Australia reaffirmed its status as clearly the best side in both one-day and Test match cricket by reclaiming the Ashes and winning its first Champions The defence of the World Cup,

The record of a 16-Test winning streak by Steve Waugh's side between 1999 and 2001 is also in Hughes, who sees Australia as the side to beat at the World Cup, identified injury-plagued

Queenslander Shane Watson as

meanwhile, is just months away.

a key player in the next phase of Australian Test cricket. "Of greater importance now is the all-rounder position," Hughes said. "We could get away with four bowlers because of the two champs. Without the two champs, we are going to need an extra bowler. Watson will become

ery, very important indeed." After the retirement of Lillee, Marsh and Chappell, Australia slumped and it won just four of its next 29 Tests, going eight series

The drought broke with suc-

cessive home series wins against New Zealand in 1987-88 and then Test minnow Sri Lanka the following season. Australia finally regained the Ashes in England in 1989 and it

proved to be the dawn of a new golden era for Australian cricket. Hughes said Australia's ability

ers could be replaced. "Lillee, Marsh and Chappell were viewed as once-in-25-years players, but within 10 years we

Hughes believes Gilchrist will retire from one-day cricket after the World Cup, but he would not be surprised if he extended his Test career until the Ashes

He said Ricky Ponting, Mike

Hussey and Michael Clarke would be a top-class middle order trio for some years to come and added that the strength of n state ranks.

crop of state cricketers is as good as it has ever been. "It is the benefit of our state competition, look at blokes like ussev and Stuart Clark." he said "Blokes serve a long apprenticeship in domestic cricket and when they come in they don't find it such

Hughes named batsmen Phil Jaques and Chris Rogers, bowlers Ben Hilfenhaus, Mitchell Johnson and Dan Cullen, and wicketkeeper Brad Haddin, as a few of the players that would help keep Australia near the top of

He expects England to be the

"Alastair Cook and Andrew Strauss will develop into a Hayden and Langer, they'll end one of the all-time great opening partnerships," he said.

'Ian Bell, Kevin Pietersen, Paul Collingwood, Andrew Flintoff, Monty Panesar are all outstanding. If they can get Simon Jones back and Michael Vaughan, they have the nucleus of a very good side. It is going to

Barmy Army still cheery

Cricket

England may have lost the Ashes but its Barmy Army cheer squad is still in good humour as it prepares to host its biggest ever Christmas and New Year's parties Down

Thousands of English cricket

fans are expected to join a

Christmas Day barbecue on the

banks of Melbourne's Yarra River

ahead of the Boxing Day Test. A few days later some 4,000 are expected at a party in Sydney on New Year's Eve, organisers

The fans are undaunted by Australia's unassailable 3-0 lead in the much-hyped Test series and the possibility of a humiliating 5-0 whitewash. "It won't stop anyone enjoying themselves, they are going to

co-founder David Peacock told AFP from Melbourne. "We lost the Ashes at Perth and it was the Barmy Army who were singing for over an hour until the boys came out.'

Australia for a party," Barmy Army

14 years ago, the Barmy Army has grown from 30 backpackers to a business employing two fulltime staff and catering for thousands of English sports fans. Australian fans initially pelted

the army with missiles, such as

plastic cups and meat pies, but it

has grown to become an integral part of Ashes cricket Down Under. Peacock says eight years ago, Christmas Day for the Barmy Army would have been a small group of supporters sitting on a beach holding a Union Jack. In

"For Christmas Dav we've organised a barbecue for about 2,500 people. That's going to be on the banks of the Yarra." says Barmy Army official Nicky Bowes. "This is the first time we've really gone to that kind of level.

2006, things are a lot grander.

Four years ago there were parties arranged but they were impromptu." she said. The Sydney New Year's Eve event, to be held at the beachside suburb of Coogee, will be a charity fundraiser and is expected to

attract some 4,000 people.

While sing-a-longs fuelled by long hours in the sun and plenty of

Since its inception in Brisbane alcohol are part of the Barmy Army package, the movement generates thousands of dollars for charities through its events.

34,000 pounds (66,745 US dollars) for leukaemia research during the last tour. 'There was always a slight concern when we started that we might get infiltrated by the football hooligans. But I think we've got a

For instance, it raised some

good reputation. People back home love us." says Peacock. Australian cricket fans are also fond of their rivals. Warren Livingstone, the

founder of the Australian fan

group The Fanatics, which follows teams and players to venues around the world, believes the Barmy Army is good for cricket. "I think any kind of noise at events generates atmosphere and that's why people go." he told

AFP from the sidelines of a cricket

match in Melbourne between The

Fanatics and the Barmy Army. "We don't see them as competition. And I don't think they see it as a competition either. We just go about it in a different fashion.

Aftab flays Abahani (Nazmus 16, Nazimuddin 26, Tushar eight Delwar Hossain to put up 163-

Partex also recorded their first win at the same venue with a six-BIMAN: 127-5 in 20 overs (Ragibul wicket triumph against last round's 45. Javed 36, Shahadat 3-15). surprise winner Kalabagan, Man-of-**OLD DOHS**: 128-7 in 19.2 overs the-match Tarig Ahmed scored 31-(Nadif 51, Mehrab 25, Mushfiqur 4ball 48 as Partex reached to 151-4 in 19.5 overs in reply to 147-6. Old DOHS won by 3 Result: Today's matches: DOHS v

> (Mabud 52, Faruk 37, Hasanuzzaman 24, Milon 20, extras 16; Kamrul 3-32, Sonnet 2-37, Farid CITY CLUB: 136-9 in 20 overs (Salahuddin 39, Nafees 10, Nipu 22,

> Tareg 21, extras 2; Wasel 2-30, Sajib

VICTORIA: 166-8 in 20 overs

2-31) Result: Victoria won by 30 runs. BROTHERS: 120-9 in 20 overs (Shahriar 40, Hannan 21, Humayun

SONARGAON: 121-6 in 19.5 overs (Al Shahriar 23, Kapali 56, extras 8;

(Nahidul 55, Arafat 34 not out, extras PARTEX: 151-4 in 19.5 overs (Rajin 29, Arifur 46, Tariq 48, extras 9;

INDIRA ROAD: 113-6 in 20 overs (Rasel 41, Mehdi 20, extras 4; Delwar 2-7, Kamal 2-26).

Result: Sonargaon won by 4 wickets.

YOUNG PEGASUS: 163-8 in 20 overs (Karim 32, Delwar 33 not out. extras 11; Manwar 2-32, Saiful 2-26).

That view gathered credence

their last four-day game against Bangladesh, who people should admit are an improving side. Even Australia have struggled against

45, extras 5; Kapali 2-28, Rafique 2-15, Sharif 3-31).

> Premierships and will not be interested after that. The reality is that we've won two Premierships, but I'm more excited about this particular season than last year or the year before. I am a fan of special nature. I'm getting excited before every single game. The trophy at the end is less important than the process

beating England.

"Our mission here is not only to

Australia took just 15 days to

The much-anticipated series has been a huge let-down with

The sorry England performance has triggered recriminations with coach Duncan Fletcher under intense scrutiny over the

had three of the best of all time in Warne, McGrath and Gilly," he

defence in England in 2009.

Australian cricket was the depth Hughes believes the current

a big step up to Test level."

world cricket.

hallenger in coming years.

to recover relatively quickly from be a good series in 2009. will be draws. We won't be able to the lows of the mid-1980s