

### BCCB calls up 25 for ICC trophy

Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) has selected 25 cricketers to form a national team which will participate in the ICC associate members trophy championship scheduled for next February and March in Kenya, reports UNB.

Three top teams of ICC trophy will qualify for the next cricket World Cup to be hosted by Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka.

The BCCB initially called 46 cricketers for trial in June and later picked up 32 from them in September. Divided into different groups the 32 cricketers took part in a good number of warm up and preparation matches in India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

### Asia Cup tourney shifted to Sharjah

CALCUTTA, Nov 29: Pakistan has backed out of hosting the Asia Cup because of India's refusal to play there and the tournament has been shifted to Sharjah, Asian Cricket Council (ACC) secretary Jagmohan Dalmyia said on Sunday, reports Reuters.

"Pakistan said that without India they are not in a position to hold the tournament," Dalmyia said.

He said it would now be staged in Sharjah in October, but he was not sure if India would take part.

India refused to play in Pakistan after they withdrew from the Cricket Association of Bengal's jubilee tournament saying Hindu militants were threatening their safety.

India has boycotted tournaments in Sharjah for the past two years, accusing organisers of being biased towards Pakistan and Dalmyia said no decision had yet been made whether India would play in the Asia Cup there.

The tournament is scheduled to feature India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, plus one other country to be decided by a knockout competition between Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Nepal and Fiji.

### Brothers stay ahead

Defending champions Brothers Union trounced Narayan-gonj Chess Club 4-0 to continue their all-win run after the tenth round in the First Division chess league at the chess room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

Grandmaster Neaz Morshed, Pakistani International Master (IM) Mahmood Lodhi, Indian player IM Shekhar Chandra Sahu, and local player Hasbul Hassan Hanif won their respective games.

Biman stayed second at the points table with 29 points when they beat Golden Chess Club 3.5-0.5.

Biman's Zia, Tahmid and Reza registered wins while Tanima drew with Shawkat of Golden Chess Club.

Bangladesh Ansars dropped down to third place with 28.5 points.

Ansars beat Pony Electronics 3-1.

Though Ansars' Kaes, Kalam and Niru had wins but Arif had no such luck against Pony's Hossain.

In the day's other matches, Dhaka University beat Farash-ganj 2.5-1.5, BTMC drew with Genius Chess Club 2-2, Chalan-tika KC drew with Parijat Chess Club 2-2, Protibha Daba Goshti beat Konica Sangskritik Sangha 2.5-1.5, Noor-e-Alam Khan Daba Sangsad outplayed Patuakhali DSA 4-0.

### Div III soccer

Gandaria Famous Sporting Club played out a goalless draw with Government Printing Press in the only Pragati Insurance Third Division football league match at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

## Abahani keep on winning



Defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra maintained their unbeaten record in the Metropolis Navana Premier cricket league after beating fancied Gulshan Youth Club by three wickets at

the Dhaka Stadium yesterday, reports UNB. Star-studded Abahani KC, have secured full 18 points from nine successive wins, to open up a two-point gap over last year's joint runners-up Mohammedan SC and Bangladesh Biman, who have bagged 16 points each on completion of their nine league engagements.

Abahani won the toss and put Gulshan Youth Club into bat. They could only manage to score 150 runs for 7 in the stipulated 45 overs.

Former Indian Test-discard Arun Lal who came in at num-

ber four and contributed a fine 52 hitting four boundaries in 79 balls and promising opener Sajid Hassan, son of former national skipper Raquibul Hassan, with 38 runs off 84 deliveries were the notable scorers for Gulshan.

In reply, Abahani KC had the worse possible start losing four quick wickets for only 21 runs, but English cricketer Illingworth who scored an unbeaten 59 with two fours and hard-hitting batsman Akram Khan, who made 35 runs off 57 deliveries steered the boat and helped Abahani reach the target for the loss of three more wickets.

In the other match of the league, Victoria SC defeated Uddity Club by 23 runs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Sent in to bat early, Victoria SC made 200 for the loss of 8 wickets in stipulated 45 overs with Anup scoring 46 and Arup not out 35.

In reply, Uddity Club closed their innings at 177 runs or 9 after playing full the 45 overs with Munir making 42 and Thku 40.

Indian cricketer Arup Bhat-tacharjee claimed five wickets giving away 18 runs with two maidens in his nine over spell.

### TODAY'S MATCHES

MSC vs Dhanmondi (Dhaka Stadium)

GMCC vs Wari (DCS)

ILLINGWORTH... 59

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### Waqar to lead in Akram's absence

KARACHI, Nov 29: Pakistan captain Wasim Akram is a doubtful starter for his country's first-ever cricket Test against Zimbabwe starting on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

All-rounder Akram is nursing a fractured wrist sustained in last month's Sharjah limited overs tournament and is to decide after a medical checkup on the eve of the match whether he can play.

If Akram is pronounced unfit, his vice-captain and fellow fast bowler Waqar Younis is set to lead the side.

"I will play if, and only if, I'm 100 per cent fit," Akram said on Sunday. "If I am having a little bit of a problem, then I will opt out."

"At present I am running and bowling but what really worries me is that my batting is likely to be hampered."

Akram predicted a clean sweep by his team in both the three Test series and three-match one-day contest against Zimbabwe, who are making their first tour of Pakistan after gaining Test status last year.

### Zimbabwe draw first tour match

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, Nov 29: The three-day match between Zimbabwe and the Bank of Khyber XI ended in a draw on Sunday, reports Reuters.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third and final day of the three-day match between Zimbabwe and the Bank of Khyber XI on Sunday.

ZIMBABWE: First innings 405-5 declared (A Campbell 135, A Flower 103)

BANK OF KHYBER XI: First innings (overnight 59-0): Shakeel Ahmed c and b

Whittle	50			
Shoaib Mohammad retired	101			
Atif Rauf b Peall	32			
Shahid Javed not out	50			
Ejaz Ahmed not out	1			
Extras: (b-5, lb-6, w-2, nb-7)	20			
Total: (for two wickets)	254			
Fall of wickets: 1-89, 2-168				
Did not bat: Muhammad Asif, Tahir Rasheed, Irfan Bhatti, Ishaq Ahmed, Kabeer Khan, Shahid Hussain.				

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Brain	19	6	68	4
Rennie	22.5	10	56	0
Whittle	17	4	31	1
Peall	25	6	42	1
Flower	6.1	1	9	0
Dekker	10	2	22	0
Campbell	4	0	19	0

Result: Match drawn

### Lock pleads innocent

PERTH, Nov 29: Former England Test spin bowler Tony Lock pleaded not guilty on Monday in Perth District Court to charges of indecently assaulting a girl he coached six years ago, reports Reuters.

"If they have an Achilles heel, it's the lack of spinners that they face," Border said.

"That's what we're looking at as the way to beat them."

South African captain Kepler Wessels said his team still suffered from a lack of exposure but he was comfortable with its development before the three-Test series.

"We're a lot more comfortable at this level in every way," Wessels told reporters.

"But we haven't played that much Test cricket since we've been back, so that's the one area where we would like to get more exposure and for the guys to get more experience."

Wessels said the Springboks were not worried about Australian spin bowlers Shane Warne and Tim May, both in lethal form.

Wessels singled out 26-year-old batsman Daryl Cullinan as the Springbok to watch, comparing him with Australian batsman Mark Waugh. Cullinan hit an unbeaten 337 in October to establish a new record in South African first-class matches.

Wessels said the Springboks would rely on the improved fitness of left-arm fast bowler Brett Shultz, whom he rated as quick as Test spearhead Allan Donald.

Donald is rated quicker than the lethal Pakistani duo of

## Warne weaves more magic as Australia take 1-0 lead



HOBART, Australia, Nov 29: Australia trounced New Zealand by an innings and 222 runs with a day to spare in their second cricket Test today to take a 1-0 lead in the series, reports Reuters.

Leg-spinner Shane Warne took the last four wickets for three runs in just 14 balls to end the Kiwis' misery at Hobart's Bellerive Oval.

It was Australia's biggest-ever winning margin against their rivals and New Zealand's worst defeat in 221 Test matches dating back to 1962-63.

New Zealand captain Ken Rutherford, who took over as skipper two weeks ago when Martin Crow flew home for knee ligament surgery after the drawn first Test, said his country was at a crossroads in Test cricket.

"We are now playing not only for the credibility of this team but for the credibility of New Zealand cricket," he told reporters.

"It is vital for the financial future that the Test team performs so that we continue to be invited to England and Australia for Test series."

"I do not want to spend the next five years touring Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka," he added.

Rutherford said he was bitterly disappointed by the way his players collapsed against Australia, describing their performance as no better than club cricketers.

"I don't mind losing if you give 100 per cent, fight, show some determination and fight and show some guts. Most of those elements were missing here," said Rutherford.

"The time of talks is open, it's time for the individual players to take a long hard look at themselves and decide whether they want to play Test cricket. On the last three to four days it's been club cricket from us," he added.

The New Zealanders were

thoroughly outplayed in all departments.

After losing the toss, they dropped five catches, missed two stumping chances and fluffed one run-out opportunity as the home side piled on a daunting 455 for six declared.

Century-makers Michael Slater, Mark Waugh, who was named man-of-the-match, and local hero David Boon all survived chances early in their innings.

Spinners Shane Warne and Tim May then took charge.

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The New Zealanders were

never giving the batsmen a chance to relax," said Border.

"They each seem to play better when the other one is in the side as well and they are our best chance to beat South Africa in the upcoming series here in Australia."

Australia announced an unchanged 12 for the third Test starting on Friday in Brisbane.

New Zealand were hoping fast bowler Chris Cairns would be fit following his late withdrawal in Hobart because of a bruised heel.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fourth day of the second Test between Australia and New Zealand today.

AUSTRALIA: First innings 544 for six declared (M Slater 168, M Waugh 111, D Boon 106, A Border 60).

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 161 (A Jones 47, T May five for 65).

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings (overnight 127 for five): Greatbatch c M Waugh b McDermott

Poock c Healy b Warne 15

Jones c Border b M Waugh 18

Rutherford b Warne 55

Patel lbw b May 16

Harris b May 4

Blain c and b Warne 29

Su'a b Warne 5

Morrison b Warne 0

Doull c May b Warne 1

De Groen not out 3

Extras: (nb-8, lb-5, b-2) 15

Total 161

Fall of wickets: 1-1; 2-29; 3-84; 4-103; 5-111; 6-133; 7-149; 8-149

Bowling: O M R W

McDermott 17 8 42 1

Reiffel 12 1 28 0

M Waugh 4 0 8 1

T May 25 13 45 2

S Warne 19.5 9 31 6

Man-of-the-match: Mark Waugh

Result: Australia won by an innings and 222 runs.

Australia lead the series 1-0 after two Tests. The first was drawn and the third and final Test is in Brisbane December 3-7.

### DU cricket results

Sports Reporter

Two unbeaten knocks by Uttam and Subrata earned ISRT an eight wicket victory over the Department of Chemistry in the Dhaka University inter-department cricket competition at the Jagannath Hall Cricket Ground yesterday.

Chemistry batted first and made 109 runs for the loss of eight wickets in the stipulated 30 overs, with Zahid scoring unbeaten 31 runs.

Enamul took three wickets giving away 27 runs while Khurshid claimed three for 17.

In reply, ISRT reached their target easily, when they made 112 runs for the loss of two wickets in 26.3 overs.

Uttam and Subrata contributed 32 and 35 runs respectively.

Rashedul took one wicket for 19 runs.

### Taylor has a heart-to-heart

LONDON, Nov 29: Graham Taylor's wife and family saved the former England manager from killing himself, he told a British tabloid newspaper on Sunday, reports AFP.

Taylor, breaking his silence on his resignation five days after quitting, admits in the News of the World newspaper to telling his wife Rita: "Without you and the family I'd have been a suicide by now."

Taylor, a loyal family man, revealed that he resigned because he felt he could not put them through any more torment.

"She'd had enough of watching me suffer unnecessary

agony," added the former Aston Villa boss, whose worst moment came recently when a Leeds hooligan jumped on his car outside Eland Road and spat on the windscreen.

"Rita didn't say a word," he added. "She didn't have to. The look on her face said it all."

Taylor, who was in charge for 38 games, said he had been "emotionally drained" by the job and felt he had also been "betrayed."

"I've been betrayed by people in my profession and even by some of my friends," he added.

"If I'd known what I do today, I wouldn't have taken the job. I wouldn't have put myself and my family through all this."

"It was once in a lifetime chance. It was my ambition, my goal, something I desperately

wanted to achieve in life, and now suddenly it's gone.

"I'm deeply hurt to the depths of my soul. Our failure to qualify and the personal anguish my family has suffered has left me emotionally drained."

"I went from being a respected and experienced manager at Aston Villa to an England manager without an ounce of credibility.

"I've been, called useless, stupid, thick. I've been told I'm no good and I don't know what I'm doing from people who've never played a game in their life."

Taylor now wants to "put the laughter back" in his house, but vows: "I don't want people to think I'm a broken man. I'll go away and lick my wounds. But I'll be back and I'll be fighting."

## Call to examine British flop

LONDON, Nov 29: Players' union chief Gordon Taylor called for a government inquiry into English football on Sunday following the four British nations' failure to qualify for the World Cup finals, reports AFP.

The chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association promised to contact football-loving Prime Minister John Major to urge him to take immediate action after the British flop.

"We need an inquiry into the state of football now," he told the Mail on Sunday newspaper. "I have no doubt whatsoever the game is confronted by its biggest ever crisis."

"The government is now committed to a massive 20 million-pound (30 million dollars) injection into football over 10 years. That is tax-payers' money and the government has a responsibility to protect it."

"We're the laughing stock of world football and I'm convinced the Football Association, because of its structure and constitution, is incapable of changing itself from within."

"So many FA councillors are there as a reward for their years of service within the amateur game. They are in no way con-

versant with the professional side of the game.

"Football requires a governing body, but it has to earn the respect of those who are being governed. At the present time

they don't deserve any respect. They simply haven't earned it."

"The FA talk blithely about the need for evolution, so they come up with a committee of six to investigate the structure of their own organisation. None of those chosen has any day-to-day involvement with a professional club."

"They seem to think that tinkering with the way in which the England manager is appointed is restructuring."

"The FA has got to understand what is happening outside their ivory tower. People stop me in the street, begging me to do something. I do not intend to ignore them."

Taylor believes that football should have two governing bodies — one for professionals and one for amateurs.

"Unless this happens, I'm convinced football will continue to go down the pan," he told the tabloid.

"If football is not to be more professionally-driven, then we're all going down like lemmings over the cliff into a sea of oblivion. We'll never recover."

### New look Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, Nov 29: Argentine national coach Alfio Basile has called up four new players into his squad for next week's international against fellow World Cup challengers Cameroon, reports AFP.

As Basile is not called on European-base players, attackers Ariel Ortega of River Plate and Claudio Baggio of San Lorenzo, racing defender Jorge Reynoso and San Lorenzo midfielder Roberto Montserrat could all win first caps in the December 8 match in Buenos Aires.

Argentina Squad: Alberto Acosta, Claudio Baggio, Jorge Borelli, Diego Cagna, Hernan Diaz, Nestor Gorostio, Sergio Goycochea, Luis Islas, Carlos Macalister, Alejandro Mancuso, Diego Maradona, Ramon Medina Bellon, Roberto Montserrat, Ariel Ortega, Hugo Perez, Jorge Reynoso, Victor Sotomayor et Sergio Vazquez.

## Barcelona back on top

MADRID, Nov 29: Barcelona returned to the top of the Spanish First Division with a 4-2 win at Rayo Vallecano, while arch-rivals Real Madrid crashed 2-1 away to Sporting Gijon on Sunday, reports Reuters.

The Catalans share the lead on 18 points with Deportivo Coruna, who won 1-0 at Atletico Madrid on Saturday. Sevilla, who began the day top of a leading pack of six teams on goal difference, slipped with a 2-1 loss at Celta, their second successive defeat in the league.

Barcelona, playing without Brazilian striker Romario, had a 20 minute purple patch midway through the second half although all their goals came from dead ball situations.

Dutch defender Ronald Koeman converted two penalties while midfielder Guillermo Amor netted the other two, both from free kicks. Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez scored both Rayo's goals from the penalty

spot.

Real Madrid, one of the six joint leaders after last weekend's programme, ended a run of eight games without defeat with their first loss at Sporting since the 1980-81 season.

Croatian midfielder Robert Prosinecki, struggling to make Real's first team, scored his first goal of the season with a magnificently taken free kick after 56 minutes, curling the ball past Sporting keeper Emilio Iserti.

But Oscar Celada equalised six minutes later and Juanel Castano scored the winner with an 83rd minute penalty.

Celta went 1-0 up against Sevilla in the 24th minute through Croat Stjepan and Rijasevic on his debut. Sebastian Losada made it 2-0 after 31 minutes and Croatian striker Davor Suker pulled one back for Sevilla with penalty eight minutes from time.

Valencia failed to capitalise on last week's 1-0 win at Sevilla and were held 0-0 at home by Real Sociedad.



American Brad Faxon holds the winner's trophy after his two