

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT English bowler Tony Lock had a suspect action. The Croydon indoor school where the tall Test cricketer learnt to bowl was partly to blame for it. The ceiling was so low that he had to bend his arm to avoid the beams.

Must go and check the ceiling height of Muralitharan's school.

Boost sports
WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-112

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Post to The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm

March 27 '99 and draw

shortly afterwards

1 Who is the new Real Madrid soccer

coach?

Hiddink Tashack Sacchi

2 Pakistan won the hockey series

against India by

5-1 6-3 4-3

3 Who is the first woman referee to

official a First Division soccer

match?

Danielle Carolina Janet

4 Who won the boys' singles title in

the ITF tourney in Rajshahi?

Chang Weaver Wala

5 How many players are taking part

in the United Insurance GM chess

tournament?

10 13 20

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH

EN-VITS

ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



The Zimbabwe players honing their catching skills during a practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. —Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Kenya fancy their chances, Zimbabwe also on a high

Hasan Masood

After a rest day on Monday, the Meril International Cricket Tournament resumes at the Bangabandhu National Stadium this afternoon with Test-side Zimbabwe taking on Kenya in their return leg clash at 2 pm.

State media Bangladesh Television and Radio Bangladesh will provide live commentary of the match.

Zimbabwe, the pre-tournament favourites, have won both their first round clashes against Kenya and hosts Bangladesh by big margins, and are expected to repeat their feat in today's match against the ICC runners-up.

The Test-babes defeated Kenya by 139 runs in the inaugural match last Friday and then handed Bangladesh a 126-run bashing on Sunday night.

Kenya, on the other hand, are second in the table having convincingly beaten Bangladesh by eight wickets in their second match last Saturday.

Both Zimbabwe and Kenya had nets at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday morning. The teams looked pretty relaxed about today's match. Perhaps they both knew what was likely to happen today.

"I have already said that we have come here to win the tour-

namment with an unbeaten record. Tomorrow's match will be another hurdle for us to cross and we are ready for that," said Zimbabwean captain Alistair Campbell after the nets.

"We are taking every match very seriously because one bad



day may change the whole complexion of our mission.

"After winning the first two matches, we are more confident now to win this tournament. The morale of the team is higher now," said the left-handed batsman, adding that leg-spinner Paul Strang might return to the team for today's match.

Besides, Zimbabwe will also look forward to Andy Flower, who scored 83 and 79 in the previous two matches, winning the man-of-the-match trophy

on each occasion.

Kenyan captain Asif Karim also revealed that the spirit of his team was quite high after their eight-wicket victory over Bangladesh.

"That win has definitely changed the approach of my team and we are looking forward to playing better cricket tomorrow," said Karim.

Both teams will name their final eleven before the match this afternoon.

SQUAD

Zimbabwe: Alistair Campbell (captain), Eddo Brandes, S. Carlisle, Andy Flower, Grant Flower, Murray Goodwin, Adam Huckle, Neil Johnson, M. Mbangwa, Henry Olonga, Paul Strang, Heath Streak, D. Viljoen, Guy Whittall and Andrew Whittall.

Kenya: Asif Karim (captain), Maurice Odumbe, Ravindu Shah, Stephen Tikolo, Sandeep Gupta, Martin Suji, Tony Suji, Alpesh Vadher, Hitesh Modi, Kennedy Otieno, Thomas Odoyo, Deepak Chudasama, Joseph Angara, Muhammad Sheikh and James Kamande.

Points table

Team	M	W	L	Points	NRR
Zimbabwe	2	2	0	4	+5.18
Kenya	2	1	1	2	-2.04
Bangladesh	2	0	2	0	-3.14

Ganguly makes SL miserable

NAGPUR, Mar 22: Saurav Ganguly scored an unbeaten 130 and then grabbed 4-21 as India whipped Sri Lanka by 80 runs today to hand the beleaguered world champions their 14th defeat from the last 16 one-dayers, reports AFP.

Rahul Dravid helped himself to 116 during a record second-wicket stand of 236 with Ganguly as India piled up a massive 287-4 from 50 overs after being sent into bat in good batting conditions.

The Sri Lankans were shot out for 207 in just 38 overs after wily Indian seamer Ajit Agarkar ripped through the top order on his return to international cricket after a four-month absence through injury.

Arjuna Ranatunga played a captain's knock of 46 off 43 balls, but when he was unhelpfully declared leg-before-off Ganguly, the fight went out of the Sri Lankans.

While Agarkar wrecked the top order with 3-14 from six overs, the irrepressible Ganguly polished off the tail in an emphatic Indian win before 40,000 home fans.

Sri Lanka, who lost to Pakistan by nine runs in Friday's opener of the three-nation series, must win both their return matches to retain hopes of making the final on April 4.

Ranatunga, whose men defend their title in less than two months in England, was confident a revival was in the offing.

"We are capable of coming back," he said. "One victory should help us turn the corner and we are working hard towards that."

Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin said the win was a morale-booster ahead of Wednesday's clash against arch-rivals Pakistan in Jaipur.

"It's good we have hit the one-day mode quickly after the recent Test series," Azharuddin said.

"Pakistan is always a tough opponent but we are ready for them."

Left-hander Ganguly, who carried his bat through the innings for his sixth one-day century, and Dravid played the depleted attack without frontline spinners Muttiah Muralitharan and Sanath Jayasuriya.

Ganguly was adjudged man-of-the-match.

Their partnership was Indi-

a's best for the second wicket, surpassing the 231 by Sachin Tendulkar and Navjot Sidhu against Pakistan at Sharjah in 1996.

Agarkar, out of action since December when he suffered a stress fracture on his left ankle just before the New Zealand tour, showed why he is indispensable to India's World Cup hopes.

He struck with his fifth delivery, removing Russel Arnold to a mistimed shot at mid-

off.

Ganguly delighted his fans with two huge sixes, while Dravid provided ideal support with 12 boundaries and a six in his third one-day century.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the one-day three-nation series international match between India and Sri Lanka on Monday:

INDIA

Ganguly not out 130

Jadeja c and b Vaas 11

David c Boteju b Vaas 116

Azharuddin c Chandana b Wickremasinghe 3

Kambl c Jayawardena b Vaas 2

Agarkar not out 0

Extras (b-1, lb-5, w-12, nb-7) 25

Total (For four wickets in 50 overs) 287

Did not bat: N Mongia, L Shukla, A Kumble, N Chopra, J Srinath.

Fall of wickets: 1-33; 2-269; 3-277; 4-279.

Bowler

Vaas 10 0 56 3

Wickremasinghe 10 0 36 1

Boteju 8 1 56 0

Kalpaga 10 0 53 0

De Silva 2 0 18 0

Chandana 7 0 43 0

Arnold 3 0 19 0

SRI LANKA

Gunawardena lbw b Chopra 39

Arnold c Kambl b Agarkar 1

Jayawardena c Kumble b Agarkar 0

De Silva b Agarkar 12

Tillekeratne st Mongia b Chopra 44

Ranatunga lbw b Ganguly 36

Chandana b Kumble 48

Kalpaga st Mongia b Ganguly 3

Boteju b Ganguly 2

Vaas c Shukla b Ganguly 0

Wickremasinghe not out 2

Extras (b-4, lb-4, w-2, nb-10) 20

Total (All out in 38 overs) 207

Fall of wickets: 1-3; 2-15; 3-41; 4-71; 5-152; 6-176; 7-184; 8-201; 9-205.

Bowler

Srinath 7 0 42 0

Agarkar 6 0 14 3

Kumble 7 0 41 1

Shukla 4 0 32 0

Chopra 10 0 49 2

Ganguly 4 0 21 4

Result: India won by 80 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Saurav Ganguly.

Next match: India v Pakistan at Jaipur, March 24.

Nat'l youth cricket
Pirojpur storm into final round

Pirojpur DSA moved into the final round of the 19th national youth cricket championship defeating Patuakhali DSA by 8 wickets in the zonal final at the Pirojpur Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

On the last day of the three-day zonal final, Pirojpur reached their winning target of 28 runs losing only two wickets in 13.1 overs.

Earlier, Patuakhali, who collected 151 runs for all in their first innings, were all out for 210 runs in 52 overs in their second innings yesterday. Pirojpur piled up 334 runs in their first innings.

Sumon of Patuakhali hammered an unbeaten 101 while Zahid added 26 runs. Rumi claimed five wickets for 66 and Manik picked up four for 44 for the winners.

Rumi of Pirojpur was adjudged man-of-the-match for his nine-wicket haul and 48 runs.

At Mymensingh Stadium, Narayananj DSA scored 20 runs for one in 2 overs in their second innings against Sylhet DSA at the end of the second day play of the three-day zonal final yesterday.

In their first innings, Narayananj scored 274 runs for all with Wahid hammering 86 runs. Mistu of Sylhet picked six wickets for 66 runs.

Earlier in the day, Sylhet managed 253 in their first innings in 90.4 overs.

Rabi hit the highest 67 with 10 boundaries while Rupok and Iqbal added 34 runs each. Shovro bagged four wickets for 55 runs while Shaymol and Sabbir took two wickets each.

FIDE rating chess
Rezaul atop alone

FIDE Master Rezaul Haq of Bangladesh Biman took the solo lead with full six points in the Independence Day Open FIDE rating chess competition at the NSC Chess room yesterday, reports UNB.

In the day's 6th round match, Rezaul beat Mahfuzur Rahman of Bangladesh Ansars.

Seven players — Saifuddin Lavi (Ansar), Shawkat Hossain Palla (Ansars), Janidur Rahman Emon, Khadaker Aminul Islam, Monir Hossain and Sohel Chowdhury — followed the leader with five points.

In the day's other matches: Jamilur beat Mahbub Alam, Aminul defeated Mahmudul Hasan, Monir outplayed Scot and Sohel overpowered Mintu.

The 7th round matches will be held today at 3.30 pm at the same venue.

Meanwhile, the first round of the 25th National Chess Championship will begin on April 8 at the NSC chess room.

International rated players, different districts, Dhaka metropolis, various organisations, three services and universities will take part in the competition.

Intending players have been requested to make their entries at the Bangladesh Chess Federation office by April 5.

S'nahar Hall Sports
Four champions, one runner-up

The 25th annual sports of Shamsunnahar Hall, Dhaka University, was held at the university central playground yesterday.

In the day-long meet, Salma Arju, Dilruba Begum, Shaifa Yasmin and Kazi Mushfeka became joint champions while Shamsunnahar Nasrin finished runner-up.

Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University, Dr. Mohammad Shahadat Ali, inaugurated the meet while provost Prof. Dr. Sultana Shafi distributed prizes among the winners in the evening.

National chess preliminaries

Sports Reporter

The qualifying phase of the national chess championship will begin at the National Sports Council Chess Room from April 8.

The Bangladesh Chess Federation has advised interested districts to organise a competition in their respective areas before sending any participants to the preliminary round of the national championship. Districts failing to organise a competition will be ineligible to take part in the preliminary round.

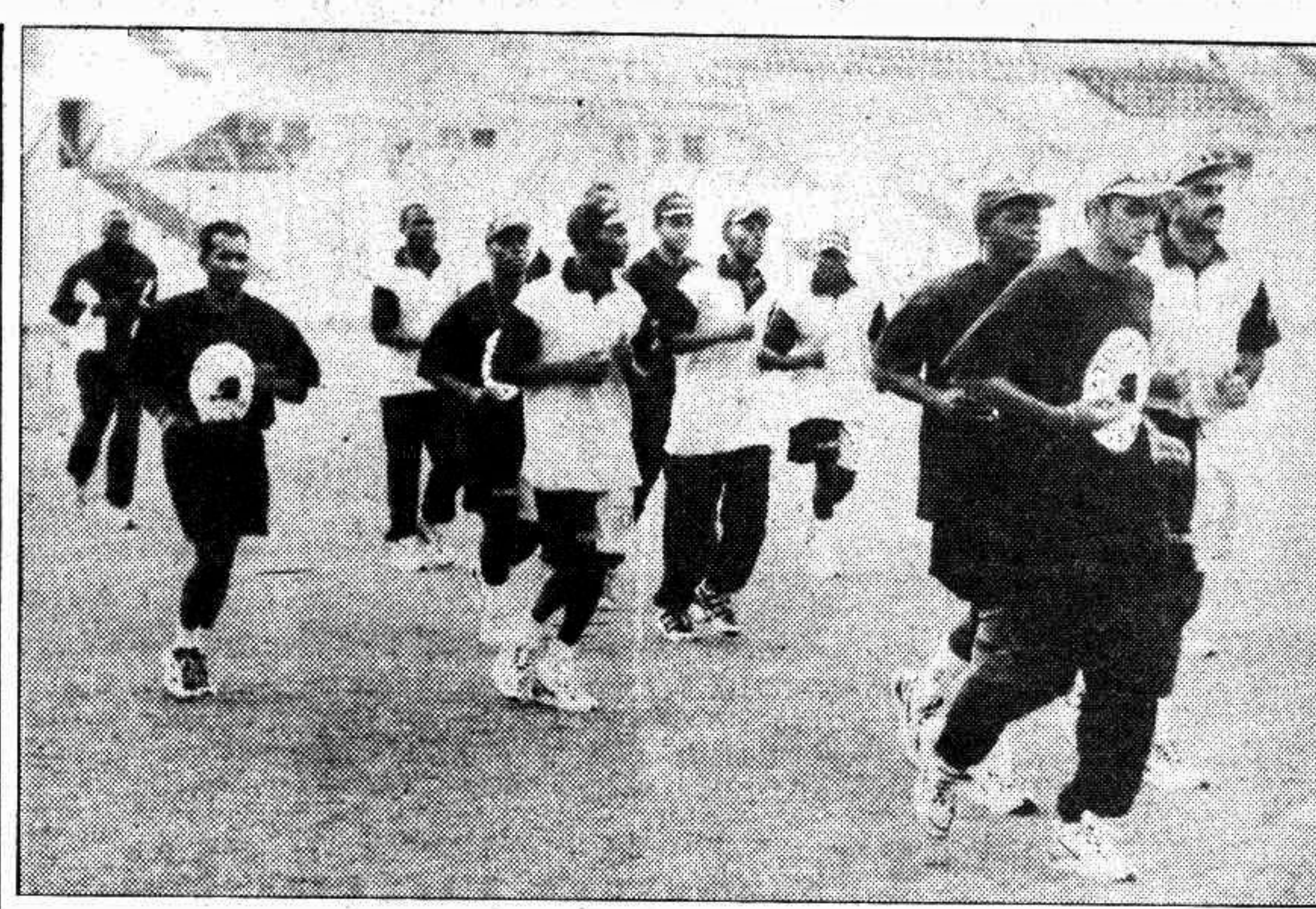
Entry formalities will have to be completed by April 4.

Rhine Group
Independence Day badminton

Sports Reporter

The Independence Day Open badminton tournament under the aegis of Bangladesh Badminton Federation got underway at the NSC wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.

Forty-seven players, including seven women, are taking part in the meet, sponsored by garment manufacturers Rhine Group.



Kenyan cricketers warming up at the Bangabandhu Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

BEYOND THE BOUNDARY
OUR CRICKET NEEDS A SHAKEUP

Shakil Kasem

As a nation we are well known for not looking too far beyond our noses. In our social and national life, short term gains and interests are the basic order of the day. For obvious reasons I shall not venture to comment further, other than to mention that we are not particularly averse to employing whatever means required to achieve these goals. Implications of such an approach we then leave to the future to judge. We regret at leisure.

In keeping with another of

Bangladesh' team on our very own home ground. Bangladesh was outplayed and outgunned in every department of the game, the difference in class there for all to see. There is no shame in admitting that we were cut down to size by a team that knew exactly what they were doing. We, on the other hand, were clueless.

Against Zimbabwe we had the same odds for survival as a snowball had in hell. We have cultivated the art of giving away six-plus runs per over when

failed to deliver the goods. So why must we overstress this concept of Eastern hospitality and polite wishy-washy overtures?

If the present coach has any reservations and/or misgivings about the role he has been asked to perform by the Board, then he should either sort it out to his satisfaction or hand over charge to another individual who would be willing to work under the existing set of circumstances.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh team has been repeating basic errors in every department of the game. There is no evidence to suggest that there is a game plan for any match. The players seem totally lost and out of focus on the field. There is a crisis in leadership; somebody is not doing a good job of providing the necessary motivation. The coach has not, for once, come out in print or otherwise, about the direction this team is likely to take. If he chooses to sulk in private, that is his prerogative, but the team should not suffer in public as a result.

One has been given to understand, in print or otherwise, that the present coach is also serving the Board as Director of Coaching. Why should that position be the criterion for him to coach the national team as well? This Directorate should be the focus of all coaching activities, planning and training of all possible and potential players who will perhaps one day be good enough to play representative cricket. The Director's function should be to evolve, implement and oversee that a particular system is operating effectively to that end. And here the line should be drawn. How the 15 or so players chosen by the national selectors should perform as a team at the topmost level should be a job given to a specialist. This individual must be result-oriented and have an established track record in this particular role at the international level.

Bangladeshis have achieved most things in life the hard way. Why should our cricketers by any different? Their road to success should be hard and rocky but it must be the right one. With no short cuts, and with a guide who is knowledgeable about the terrain and knows where he is going and how he might get there.

Let's find such a man. Quickly. We have a bridge to cross and a bus to catch.



our widely acknowledged traits, which is our inordinately high level of national innocence and naivete, we had celebrated our 'success' in achieving ODI status with elaborate pomp and fanfare a couple of seasons ago. We have since then played twenty-seven ODIs in which our solitary win must be viewed more as an aberration than an achievement. We are now headed full tilt, all systems go, towards achieving Test status. Our bark is also worse than our bite.

Considering what was on display against Pakistan, Kenya and Zimbabwe over the last week it is obvious that the meltdown of our playing standards have been starkly evident, from the ordinary to the pathetic. It is important for all and sundry to determine why there has been such a decline in less than a year.

As far as the three matches were concerned, Pakistan were predictably patronising in their approach and attitude. A batting line-up that gifts wickets to bowlers the likes of Saeed Anwar & Co. who are at best impostors of the art of any kind of bowling, does not really get too many brownie points for credibility. The match therefore was a foregone conclusion, the less said about it the better.

What is of concern however is the manner in which Bangladesh went down to Kenya. Even as someone watching the match from the safe confines of my home on TV, I was mesmerised by the savage ferocity of the Kenyan attack that fairly ravaged the

bowling, and scoring less than half of that whilst batting. Not what you might call good business sense at this level of the game. The only discomfort the Zimbabwean captain faced during the day, was at the post match press conference. He had to come up with suitably polite and diplomatically correct replies when asked what he thought about his opponents.

Cricket lovers, fans of Bangladesh cricket, and the paying public are now like jilted lovers, anguished, gripped and increasingly frustrated at the turnaround of their team. The side is presently meandering through the maze of international competitions in a manner that can only charitably be termed purposeless. It does not seem to have a plan of action, has no sense of direction, and is bereft of confidence. Our team is like a random blip on the radar screen of international cricket.

There is too much reliance placed on a non-existent team management, whose commitment and credibility are quite obviously in short supply. It is time now to ask some pertinent questions. Is the team in the right hands? What exactly is the role of the coach of this side? Has he given any time frame when this side is likely to show any results? In this fiercely competitive and profit-oriented world, performances count for everything. Nothing more, nothing less. There are countless instances around the world of team management having to give way because they have

S Africans secure series

WELLINGTON, Mar 22: South Africa produced a resounding eight-wicket victory in the third