

The Ranji Trophy for national cricket championship in India is named after K S Ranjitsinhji of England.

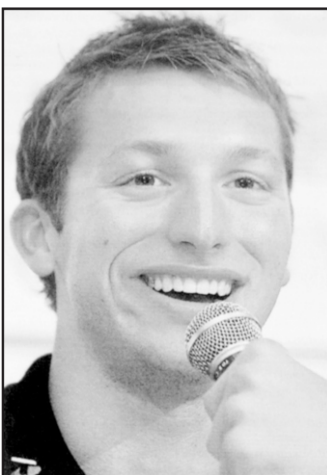


## ESPN

Pakistan Tour of New Zealand  
Pakistan vs New Zealand  
Third ODI  
Highlights at 11:30 am  
UEFA Champions League  
Liverpool vs Borussia Dortmund  
4:00 pm  
Western Union World Football  
7:30 pm  
Sportscentre Hindi  
Sport News  
Live at 8:30 pm  
World Cup Soccer Mix  
9:00 pm

## STAR Sports

England Premier Football League  
Weekly Highlights at 8:30 am  
Sportline Tonight  
Sport News  
Live at 8:00 pm  
Football Mundial  
9:30 pm  
Gillette World Sports Special  
Int'l Sports News  
10:00 pm  
Boycott's Best  
Cricket Classics  
England vs India  
Second Test, 1986  
11:00 pm



## Ian Thorpe

(Australian swimming ace)  
"Money for some people is a huge incentive. For me, it isn't. If you swim to make money, you're never going to be able to get the best out of yourself and you're never going to be able to perform at your best."



Tick the Correct Answers Post to  
**The Daily Star**  
Win attractive prizes  
Competition closes at 8 pm  
Sept 28, 2001 and draw  
shortly afterwards

1. Who became National Bank Premier League football champions?	Abahani	Mohammedan	Arambagh
2. Who won the US Open men's singles title?	Hewitt	Safin	Sampras
3. What was Ashraf's score in his century innings against Sri Lanka in the Asian Test Championship?	114	126	140
4. What was the result of the Test series between India and Sri Lanka?	1-1	2-1	2-0
5. Former West Indies fast bowler Andy Roberts comes			
Name .....			
Class .....			
School Address .....			
Phone: (If any) .....			



PHOTO: STAR

Mohammedan striker Alfaz (R) and Abahani midfielder Bidyut are in pursuit of the ball during the last match of the National Bank Premier Division Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

# Abahani put icing on cake



## SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani Krira Chakra celebrated their eleventh League title in a befitting way, defeating arch rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club 1-0 in the last match of this season's National Bank Premier Division football league at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Wednesday.

Mahmudul Hasan scored a spectacular goal for the popular Dhanmondi outfit in the 33rd minute of the first half to ensure victory.

Abahani, undoubtedly the form team of the year, finished the League with an astonishing 14-point advantage from second-placed Mohammedan.

Hasan's sudden volley from 25-yards that crashed into the upper right-hand corner of custodian Bijon's post also presented Abahani their third successive victory over Mohammedan in the Super Three phase of the league.

It was a dream season for Abahani. They not only have played fantastic football in the League, but also maintained a clear edge over Mohammedan, who lost all their four clashes this season including one in the tiebreaker.

The 10,000 strong Abahani supporters, present at the stadium, celebrated in style after the game was over while the players went for a lap of honour.

Hasan was adjudged match of the match for his superlative effort and also for making a goal line save in the second half. The only disappointment for Abahani in the match

was the sending off of their captain Arman, who picked the dreaded red card in the 81st minute for a cynical tackle on Mohammedan's Nigerian forward Sunday.

Playing with ten men in the last nine minutes, Abahani however successfully thwarted some menacing Mohammedan moves.

Mohammedan would like to forget the year as they never did any justice to their image and tradition as a top force.

The black and whites not only lacked the necessarily firepower on the field, but were also engaged in many off field controversies.

Their Sri Lanka coach Pakir Ali

parted his relationship with the team in the middle of the league. Mohammedan also had their share of problems in the management.

There were allegations that team manager Amirul Islam, who had no background in football, did more harm than good to team morale.

Abahani on the other hand was a study in contrast. The club put faith on Momen Munna, a former national captain, for a second successive year as manager.

Munna returned the confidence by aptly motivating and guiding the team to championship.

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## ROLL OF HONOUR

Year	Champions	Runners up
1973	BIDC	Abahani/Mohammedan SC/Dhaka Wanderers
1974	Abahani	Dilkusha SC
1975	Mohammedan SC	BJMC
1976	Mohammedan SC	Abahani
1977	Abahani	Rahmatganj MFS
1978	Mohammedan SC	Brothers Union
1979	BJMC	Abahani
1980	Mohammedan SC	BJMC
1981	Abahani	Not decided
1982	Mohammedan SC	Abahani
1983	Abahani	Mohammedan SC
1984	Abahani	Mohammedan SC
1985	Abahani	Brothers Union
1986	Mohammedan SC	Abahani
1987	Mohammedan SC	Abahani
1988-89	Mohammedan SC	Abahani
1989-90	Abahani	Mohammedan SC
1991	Abahani	Mohammedan SC
1992	Not held	
1993	Mohammedan SC	Abahani
1994	Abahani	Mohammedan SC
1995	Abahani	Mohammedan SC
1996	Mohammedan SC	Abahani
1997	Muktijoddha Sangsad	Mohammedan SC
1998	Not held	
1999	Mohammedan SC	Abahani
2000	Muktijoddha Sangsad	Abahani
2001	Abahani	Mohammedan SC

# Proteas' real test ahead



## REUTERS, Bulawayo

South African captain Shaun Pollock said after his side's 1-0 series win over Zimbabwe that they would need to improve when they take on India and Australia.

India head for South Africa next week and South Africa also face home and away series against world champions Australia this season.

"The tougher challenges lie ahead for us," Pollock told reporters after the drawn second Test which followed a nine-wicket victory in Harare the previous week.

"We were expected to beat Zimbabwe and we're pleased we've done that. But we need to lift our standards in all aspects of the game."

"It's difficult to criticise the batsmen in a series in which we've scored so many runs and lost so few wickets and the bowling's also difficult (to assess) because the wickets have been unresponsive. But our fielding could improve quite a bit."

South Africa batted briskly for the first half-hour on Tuesday but then went into their shells until after tea, when their aggressive strokeplay came too late to save the match from stalemate.

"We were still 119 behind this morning, so if you went out and played some shots and lost a few quick wickets and ended up getting 420, then there wouldn't be much in the game," Pollock said.

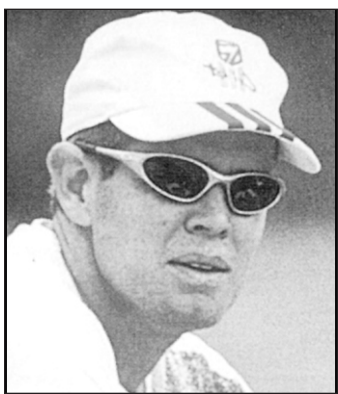
"We thought if we got a lead of a hundred and made sure we had 40-odd overs to bowl we would be in

with a chance."

Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak was pleased his side had broken their run of defeats against their southern neighbours.

"This is the fifth time we've played South Africa in a Test match and we've lost the other four, so it's good to get a draw," Streak said.

Streak believed the loss of the second day's play due to rain and a wet outfield and a hand injury which limited the effectiveness of leg-spinner Paul Strang were important factors in the match.



SHAUN POLLOCK

"It's just unfortunate that we had bad weather and an injury to Strang because we may have had an opportunity to get a result out of it," Streak said.

"The rain probably meant the wicket held together a little better than it would have."

"If we had a couple of days of what we saw today, we may have been able to bowl at South Africa on a wicket that was doing quite a bit

and we may have been able to give them a bit more of a scare. It really started turning towards the end."

"(Left-arm spinner) Ray Price (who took five for 181) bowled superbly. He had to bowl a long spell and he did a good job for us."

Price's 79 overs were the most bowled in a Test innings by a Zimbabwean.

South African batsman Jacques Kallis, who scored an undefeated 157 and 42 not out in the first Test and a career best 189 not out in the second Test for an aggregate of 388 without being dismissed, was named man of the match as well as man of the series.

"It's difficult to play in these conditions," Kallis said. "These are the grafting type of wickets and it's not easy to play your shots. You've got to work the ball around."

"If we had been bowled out 80 runs behind them we would have been under a lot of pressure, so our first priority was to get to their total and play the game from there."

"We started off nicely but then Zimbabwe went on to the defensive and made scoring more difficult."

"We always knew it was going to be tough but we were happy we got to a hundred ahead as quick as we did and apply a lot of pressure towards the end. It was a game that seemed dead when we arrived this morning and we actually created something."

Kallis said he was not disappointed to have narrowly missed what would have been his first double century.

"I would have liked to have got 200 but I'm certainly very happy with being able to bat on a wicket like that and to be able to last that long," Kallis said.

## A team to be named today

### SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh A team for India tour next month would be announced today.

Chief selector Mainul Haq had a meeting with his other two colleagues at Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) new office in Gulshan yesterday.

The team is expected to be announced at a press conference at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

The Bangladesh A will play four three-day matches and as many limited-over matches against different western India selections in Mumbai, Pune and Baroda during their month long tour, starting from October 13.

Khaled Mahmud has been named captain of the team.

Meanwhile, chief age-group selector Tanjeeb Ahsan Saad said yesterday that the under-19 team would be announced early next week.

It would take another three to four days to finalise the team which would go to Australia for a six-week tour on October 11, Saad said.

During the first ever trip down under, the under-19 cricketers are scheduled to attend a three-week training at the famous Commonwealth Bank Cricket Academy in Adelaide and would play at least four matches against different provincial selections and Australia under-19 team.

## Bhutan Federation Cup Arambagh lose to Thai selection

### SPORTS REPORTER

Arambagh Krira Sangha suffered a lone goal defeat against a team from Thailand in the Bhutan Federation Cup on Wednesday.

But despite the defeat the Federation Cup runners-up still moved into the semifinals of the invitational tournament for their 2-0 victory against Air India in their opening match on September 15.

According to a fax message received here last night Arambagh conceded an 84th minute goal.

Arambagh will take on Nepal in the first semifinal today.

## Andy Flower stays on top

### REUTERS, London

Zimbabwe's Andy Flower has consolidated his position at the top of the PricewaterhouseCoopers batting ratings after hitting a half-century in the drawn second Test with South Africa.

South African batsman Jacques Kallis moved up two places to number nine after hitting an unbeaten 189 in the same match.

Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak dropped out of the top ten in the bowlers ratings after finishing wicket-less in Bulawayo.

## TOP 10 BATSMEN

Player	Points
Andy Flower	897
Steve Waugh	877
S Tendulkar	866
Inzamamul Haq	818
M Jayawardene	805
Rahul Dravid	798
Adam Gilchrist	790
Brian Lara	769
Jacques Kallis	744
Mark Waugh	743

## TOP 10 BOWLERS

Glenn McGrath	919
Shaun Pollock	893
M Muralitharan	864
Allan Donald	801
Darren Gough	746
Shane Warne	736
Waqaar Younis	686
Saqain Mushtaq	678
Chris Cairns	663
Jason Gillespie	661

## Ex-Australian batsman dies

### REUTERS/AFP, Perth

Former Test left-handed batsman Barry Shephard has died here aged 64, the Western Australian Cricket Association said Tuesday night.

Shepherd, one of the men credited with making Western Australia among the strongest teams in the country through his aggressive strokeplay and captaincy, played in nine Tests -- including two against England in the 1962-63 Ashes series here -- between 1962 and 1965.

In 14 innings in the international arena, he averaged 41.83 runs with a top score of 96 against South Africa. Shepherd also made 87 first-class appearances for Western Australia, including 35 as captain, in the domestic Sheffield Shield competition.

When he retired in the mid 1960s, Shepherd became a leading cricket administrator, serving for many years as a director of the Australian Cricket Board.

# Football's new fight



## HASAN MASOOD

There may be hundreds of gold medals up for grabs in the South Asian Federation (SAF) Games, but nothing is sweeter than football's.

Bangladesh won only two golds in the eighth SAF Games in Nepal in 1999. But their poorest ever performance in the regional meet was forgotten when they clinched the football gold for the first time beating the hosts 1-0 win in the final.

Such is the passion for football that the Indians, despite having finished atop the table with 102 out of 162 golds, left the Tribuvan International Airport in Kathmandu

Bangladesh lost the final to the hosts 2-4 despite they blanked them 5-0 in the first round.

In the second SAF games in Dhaka in 1985, Bangladesh lost the final to India in tiebreaker after the match was locked at 1-1. Hosts Pakistan clinched the coveted cup in 1989 after beating chokers Bangladesh 0-1. India prolonged Bangladesh's woes when they handed a lone goal defeat in the 1995 final.

Winning of the elusive gold however throws up new a challenge for Bangladesh who will put their title on the line in the ninth SAF Games, starting in Islamabad from October 6.

The tournament would be different on another account too. Complexion of the tournament has been changed with the participation of only Olympic teams (under-23) from this edition.

Officials of the defending champions however feel that change would not affect their performance as the 20 players selected for the Islamabad meet have the experi-



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

The SAF Games-bound Bangladesh football team members do some stretching under the supervision of coach George Kottan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

with their heads down as they had failed to grab the ultimate glory in football.

Bangladesh had always been considered as firm contenders alongside India in the regional Games, introduced in 1884 to strengthen the SAARC ties.

Before Kathmandu, Bangladesh reached the final four times (1984, 1985, 1989 and 1995), but the lady luck never smiled on them. In the inaugural edition in Nepal,

ence of playing at the highest level.

"It's a balanced side and everybody is fighting fit. The only thing missing is that we could not practice yet with the full team because of the Premier League," said captain Rajani Kanta Barman to The Daily Star Sport on Tuesday.

"Our first target is to win the first group match against India. If we can achieve that, our way to semifinals will become smooth," said Rajani, adding that the other Group A team

# Nehra too ruled out



## REUTERS, New Delhi

Left-arm paceman Ashish Nehra has become India's latest injury casualty for a one-day triangular series in South Africa next month, an Indian cricket official has said.

"He has been found unfit by (sports medicine expert) Dr Anant Joshi," Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Secretary Jaywant Lele told Reuters.

Nehra's absence from the South African tour follows earlier injuries to fellow pace bowler Zaheer Khan and batsmen Vangipurappu Laxman and Hemang Badani.

The Indian squad leaves for South Africa on September 24 to play in the tri-nation tournament, which also involves Kenya, over October 5-26.

India are also scheduled to play a three-Test series against South

Africa in November after the one-day series.

Nehra, 22, has been struggling to recover from a groin strain which forced him to miss the three-Test series in Sri Lanka that ended



ASHISH NEHRA

earlier this month. Joshi, who has been asked by

the BCCI to hold the fitness tests, assessed Nehra and Zaheer in the southern city of Madras on Tuesday during pre-tour training under former Australian fast bowler Dennis Lillee.

Lele said medium-pace Harvinder Singh would come into the tour squad for Zaheer and Jacob Martin for Badani.

Chief selector Chandu Borde said Nehra's replacement will be chosen from among three medium-pacers -- uncapped Rakesh Patel, Debasish Mohanty and Ajit Agarkar.

He said the trio would be assessed by national selectors when the South Africa-bound squad undergo fitness tests in Bombay on Saturday and Sunday.

Borde, a former Test all-rounder, criticised players who continued to play despite injuries, leaving them with little time to recover ahead of tough tours like the one to South Africa.

"We are helpless. Players should know whether they are injured and immediately take precaution, not continue playing," he told the news agency on phone from the western city of Pune.

"Now there is not enough time to recover. If some of them continue playing with injuries, this is the fruit," he said.

Laxman suffered a right knee ligament tear in July during the early phase of India's Sri Lankan tour, but went on to play in a one-day tri-series in Colombo which India lost to the hosts in the final.

He then underwent arthroscopy in Australia last month and informed the BCCI he was withdrawing from the one-day squad because he had not fully recovered.

Zaheer, who has performed consistently since making his India debut late last year, complained of pain on his landing right foot in Sri Lanka but played in both the one-dayers and in a subsequent Test series.

Nehra also complained of pain in his left groin in the final phase of a Test tour of Zimbabwe which ended early in July, but played in the Sri Lankan one-dayers before being asked to rest.

Asked who should held responsible, Borde said: "They (the players) themselves must decide and come out truthfully."