



## Did U Know?

England was the first team to achieve an innings victory in Test cricket. They beat Australia by an innings and 27 runs at Melbourne in 1882-83.



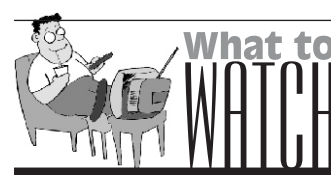
## Talk Turkey



### Geoff Hurst

(England soccer legend)  
"Beckham has combined a rich and glamorous lifestyle with a successful playing career. But I, believe he is over-rated as a player. In fact, I don't think he's the best right-side mid-field player in Manchester United's recent past. Steve Coppell was a better all-rounder, and he had a greater range of skills than Beckham."

**On English skipper David Beckham.**



## What to Watch

<b>ESPN</b>
UEFA Champions League Nantes vs Lazio 9:30 am
English Premier Football League Man United vs Newcastle 11:00 am
Pakistan Tour of New Zealand Pakistan vs New Zealand Third ODI Highlights at 1:30 pm ATP Tennis Show 10:00 pm
<b>STAR Sports</b>
World Cup Soccer Mix 12:30 pm
<b>Primera Liga</b>
Weekly Highlights at 5:00 pm
Trans World Sport Int'l Sports News 5:30 pm
Gillette World Sports Special Int'l Sports News 8:00 pm
<b>Primera Liga</b>
Espanyol vs Real Madrid Live at 1:00 am (Sunday)



**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	
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?	2-1	2-0	
5. Former West Indies fast bowler Ardy Roberts comes	1-1		
Name .....			
Class..... Roll No.....			
School Address .....			
Phone: (If any) .....			

# No silver-lining for kabadi!



## HASAN MASOOD

Kabadi has the distinction of being the number one sport in Bangladesh. But the sport is now struggling to keep pace with arch-rivals India.

At the ninth edition of the South Asian Federation Games beginning in Islamabad on October 6, it is very likely Bangladesh will not even earn a silver.

Before the drastic slump Bangladesh was always ranked behind the Indians in either the Asian or SAF Games. Although Bangladesh tried their utmost to give their opponents a real fight, but it was the Indians' advantage of being both mentally and physically stronger, that always denied them the ultimate glory.

However, the rivalry in kabadi is no longer a Bangladesh versus India affair.

Pakistan have since emerged as serious contenders. And what is more ironical a Bangladesh coach guided them to gold in 1993.

In the eight previous SAF Games, Bangladesh have won a total of five silvers and two bronzes.

And when kabadi was introduced in the 1990 Asian Games they bagged silver and retained the medal four years later.

The first signs of trouble appeared when Bangladesh fetched just a bronze at the 1998 Bangkok Asiad. Then a year later, the team returned home in disgrace after disqualification at the Eighth SAF Games in Nepal.

Despite the reversal of fortune Bangladesh officials are confident of performing well during the 10-day competition Games.

"Our mission is to reach the final and prove that Bangladesh is still a major force in the sport," said Bangladesh Kabadi Federation (BKF) general secretary Munir Hossain while talking to The Daily Star Sport on Friday.

Once regarded as the country's best football referee in the seventies, Munir said that the federation undertook a serious plan to improve the team's morale after the Kathmandu debacle.

"We have drafted six youngsters in the 12-man squad. They will

bring youth into the experienced team.

"So, if they can face Indian and Pakistan with a little more courage, then we might capture the silver," Munir said.

He pointed out that the real problem with Bangladesh's players was their lack of self-belief.

"Whenever they play India or Pakistan the players tend to give up before the game starts."

When asked why Pakistan and even Sri Lanka are playing better than us these days, Munir said it was down to being technically superior.

"They have adopted a modern strategy. The Sri Lankans have toured India and Thailand as part of their preparations while Pakistan visited Iran last month.

"On the other hand, we couldn't manage a trip to West Bengal," he said adding that they have already received Taka 2.10 lakh to pay for training.

"We will get another 1.71 lakh

taka before leaving for Islamabad."

He blamed poor leadership in his federation for not sending the team to West Bengal.

"I shouldn't be held responsible since a secretary has no power. Rather it's the president who ought to take the initiative," said Munir referring to Post and Telecommunications Secretary Nazmul Ahsan Chowdhury who replaced former Awami League MP Habibur Rahman Mollah last month.

The kabadi camp for SAF Games began last May with 42 players. After four phases a final squad of 12 male players was announced last month.

**SQUAD**  
Abdur Rouf, Badshah Miah, Zahidul Islam, Al-Mamun, Ziaur Rahman, Kamal Hossain, Delwar Hossain, Tariqul Islam, Towhidul Islam, Hafizur Rahman, Rabiul Islam, Shahinur Rahman, Abdul Kayyum and Abdur Razzak.  
Coach: Abdul Jalil.

## 107th IFA Shield Muktis off to Kolkata



### SPORTS REPORTER

Federation Cup champions Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra left Dhaka for Kolkata last evening to take part in the 107th IFA Shield football tournament.

The oldest club tournament of India, involving three foreign and nine local teams, will kick off tomorrow (September 22).

The main attraction of this year's tournament will be Brazilian giants Palmeiras. However, Palmeiras are sending their reserve team as the main squad is busy playing in the Brazilian domestic competition. The other foreign side is Nam Dinh of Vietnam.

In the first round, teams have been split into four groups. Two from each group qualify for the quarter finals. The final is slated for October 7.

Palmeiras have been drafted in Group D along with Tata Football Academy (TFA) and Bharti Sangha.

Muktijoddha Sangsad, Nam Dinh and Indian under-19 squad will feature in Group C.

Kolkata giants East Bengal have been joined by Tollygunge Agragami and Calcutta Mohammedan Sporting in Group A while Mohun Bagan are in Group B with FC Kochin and Ever-Ready.

The group matches will be held at five venues Salt Lake Stadium, Kishore Bharati Stadium, Howrah Municipal Stadium, East Bengal ground and Mohun Bagan ground.

The champions will fetch Rs 6 lakh in prize money with the runners up getting Rs 3 lakh. The losing semi-finalists will receive Rs 75,000. Besides, winner of every game will get Rs 20,000.

There will be no live telecast of the competition but cable channel Star Sports will show recorded capsules in October.

### SQUAD

Hasan Al-Mamun (captain), Rakib, Lajuk, Bijan Barua, Mintu, Prodeep Barua, Sourav Raju, Sentu, Dawn, Farhad, Shuvro, Peyar Ali, Faisal, Tushar, Abdul Wasio, Emeca Achilefu, Nazarav Yarkin and Felix.

Officials: Jahangir Alam (manager) and Abu Yusuf (coach).



Players and officials of the Muktijoddha Sangsad football team pose for photographers before flying out to Kolkata on Friday.

# Facing Cronje challenge



### REUTERS, Pretoria

Cricket's campaign against match-fixing will face its toughest test yet when Hansie Cronje challenges his life ban in court next week.

Cronje was banished from all forms of organised cricket after admitting to the King Commission last June that he had colluded with the game's gambling underworld and had accepted approximately 130,000 dollars in cash.

Next Wednesday, Cronje and the United Cricket Board (UCB) of South Africa, which banned him, will square up in the Pretoria High Court as the ex-South African captain takes on his former employers in an attempt to have his ban overturned.

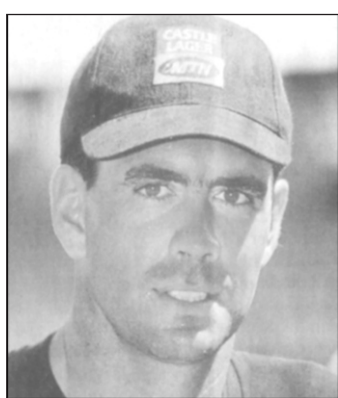
Cronje's case will be argued in court by senior counsel Mike Maritz, who has earned a reputation for fiery cross-examination.

Senior counsel Wim Trengove, who has previously represented former president Nelson Mandela and the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, is to argue for the UCB in front of presid-

ing judge, Justice FC Kirk-Cohen.

Cronje has expressed a desire to return to the game he wronged in a non-playing capacity, possibly in a coaching or media role.

But the UCB is determined to keep him away from all cricket



HANSIE CRONJE

played under their auspices, which involves international, provincial, club and school competitions.

All that is left for Cronje under the ban is private coaching. He is unlikely to be granted media accreditation by the UCB, which will

limit but not preclude his opportunities to report and commentate on cricket.

Cronje's lawyers are expected to argue that the ban places unfair economic restraints on their client and that he could still be of use to the game. Another significant argument will likely be that the UCB took action against Cronje without granting him a hearing.

However, granting Cronje restitution so soon after his fall from grace — the scandal broke in April last year — could send a signal to corrupt cricketers and cricket's corrupters alike that the coast was clear and they could resume their activities, some say.

Match-fixing has been investigated in every Test-playing country, apart from England, but the South African inquiry has been hailed as the most thorough attempt yet to come to terms with the extent of the problem.

The cricket world watched in shock and amazement as Cronje, Herschelle Gibbs and Henry Williams told the King Commission of their roles in the betting scandal.

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The SAF Games-bound Bangladesh kabadi team members practise under the supervision of coach Abdul Jalil at the BDR ground on September 18.

## Four-day game A team take on seniors

### SPORTS REPORTER

The India-bound Bangladesh A team will play a four-day match against their seniors at the BUET ground this morning.

The second string national side, which was announced on Thursday, is scheduled to tour western India from October 13 to November 10.

Their itinerary includes four three-day and as many limited-over matches against different selections in Mumbai, Pune and Baroda.

## Kiwis will have more warmups

### AFP/REUTERS, Sydney

New Zealand will receive two extra lead-up matches ahead of the first cricket Test against Australia in Brisbane in November, the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) said Friday.

The ACB agreed to the matches to give the Kiwis more match practice following the cancellation of New Zealand's tour of Pakistan amid safety fears in the wake of the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

"We've agreed in principle but we obviously need to work that through logistically," an ACB spokesman said Friday.

The ACB is expected to discuss the matter at a board meeting later Friday.

New Zealand's tour of Australia was originally due to start on November 1 with a match against Queensland but it was now likely to start 10-14 days earlier.

The first Test is set to start at the Gabba on November 8.

The Kiwis will go back to New Zealand after the third Test before returning in January for a triangular limited-overs series including Australia and South Africa.

## Ricky taken in on a mission

### REUTERS, Sydney

Australian cricket officials have started grooming Ricky Ponting to take over as national captain when Steve Waugh eventually retires.

Australian cricket officials have made no secret of the fact they saw the inexperienced Ponting as a future leader but said they wanted to see how he performed at a high level, something they affirmed when he was named as the new state captain of Tasmania after Jamie Cox agreed to stand down.

"Ricky has been touted in the past for possible future higher duties and we believe now is the time for him to lead Tasmania," Tasmanian and Australian Cricket Board chairman Denis Rogers said Thursday.

"As Tasmanian captain, he will gain the necessary experience and have the chance to show his leadership qualities should that opportunity arise."

Although the current vice-captain Adam Gilchrist is the obvious choice to replace Waugh when he retires, possibly after the 2003 World Cup, Ponting is seen as a popular long-term prospect.

The 27-year-old has been playing first-class cricket for a decade and is an established member of the Australian Test and limited-overs teams.

He has little captaincy experience although he made a big impression when he twice captained the Australians on their recent Ashes tour of Britain, against Somerset and Ireland.

"I haven't really had a chance so far," Ponting said. "I am looking forward to the responsibility and the challenge."

# In search of a way out



### REUTERS, New Delhi

The Indian cricket squad were trying to sort out major fitness problems on Friday, two days before leaving on a Test tour of South Africa.

A spate of injuries has undermined the squad in the past few months and continues to dog them as they prepare to leave on Monday for their third consecutive overseas tour in four months.

India will play in a one-day triangular series also involving Kenya from October 5 to 26 before taking on the world's second-ranked Test team in a three-match series in November.

Dubbed poor travellers because of their inability to win a Test series outside the Indian sub-continent in 15 years, India will be under pressure to bounce back after suffering a 1-2 Test series defeat in Sri Lanka early this month in the absence of leading batsmen Sachin Tendulkar and Vangipurappu Laxman.

Tendulkar, who was sidelined because of a foot fracture, has recovered and returned to regular training.

But Laxman, who hit an Indian Test record of 281 in the upset home series victory over Australia early this year, is ruled out of the South

African one-dayers because he has not fully recovered from knee surgery he underwent in Australia last month.

Three others are also sidelined from the 15-man squad originally named as Saurav Ganguly's side grapple with a problem attributed



VANGIPURAPPU LAXMAN

mainly to a hectic schedule.

Worried by the spate of injuries, the national selectors have asked the entire squad to undergo fitness tests in Bombay over the weekend.

Left-arm paceman Zaheer Khan has been ruled out of the one-dayers because of a leg injury and batsman Hemang Badani is nursing a back problem.

Indian cricket officials have also said paceman Ashish Nehra has not

## Changes at ACB top

### REUTERS, Melbourne

Bob Merriman was appointed on Friday as chairman of the Australian Cricket Board (ACB), replacing Denis Rogers, who decided not to seek re-election after six years in the job.

The 65-year-old Merriman, who has been an ACB director since 1991, was appointed deputy chairman in May.

"This is a rare privilege, to work with the current board of directors in leading Australian cricket into the future," Merriman said.

"I have big shoes to fill. However, I am looking forward to the challenges at hand and helping Australian cricket improve on its position of strength."

Merriman's appointment completes a double change at the top of Australian cricket. James Sutherland became the ACB's new chief executive officer in June, replacing Malcolm Speed.

# Nel nails Zimbabwe A



### REUTERS, Bulawayo

South Africa cruised to a seven wicket win over Zimbabwe A in a limited-overs tour match in Bulawayo on Friday.

Zimbabwe A, who lost the toss and were put in to bat, were dismissed for 128 in 42.3 overs with fast bowler Andre Nel taking five for 11 from eight overs.

South Africa replied with 131 for three in 20.1 overs, opener Boeta Dippenaar hitting 60 off 59 balls with eight fours and two sixes.

Herschelle Gibbs and Dippenaar put on 63 off 58 balls for the first wicket before Gibbs was caught behind down the leg-side for 28 in the 10th over.

Dippenaar went five overs later, caught behind off leg-spinner Strang, but 24 from Mark Boucher and an unbeaten 11 from Jonty Rhodes guided South Africa home.

Earlier, Nel had wreaked havoc, striking first in the fourth over of the innings when he had Stuart Carlisle caught at first slip by Lance Klusener for five.

Gavin Rennie fell in identical

fashion, also for five, followed by Hamilton Masakadza who offered a looping catch to Justin Ontong at square leg off Nel in the 12th over.

Four balls later, Nel bowled Craig Wishart for six with an in-swinging to make it 26 for five.

Nel had Tatenda Taibu caught by



ANDRE NEL...5/11

Klusener at first slip with the first ball of his next spell, in the 28th over.

Taibu's 21 was one of only three double figure scores in the innings, along with Paul Strang's unbeaten 45 and David Mutendera's 12.

Strang and Mutendera added 44

runs for the 10th wicket, the biggest stand of the innings. It was ended when Pollock, bowling off spinners, had Mutendera stumped by Boucher.

Zimbabwe and South Africa play the third of three one day internationals in Bulawayo on Sunday.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Zimbabwe A innings in the one-day match against South Africa Friday:

<b>ZIMBABWE A</b>					
Marillier run out (Rhodes)	0				
Rennie c Klusener b Nel	5				
Carlisle c Klusener b Nel	5				
Masakadza c Ontong b Nel	5				
Wishart b Nel	6				
Taibu c Klusener b Nel	21				
Nkala c Boucher b Ntini	2				
Brent c Boucher b Ntini	3				
Strang not out	45				
Olunga c Gibbs b Langeveldt	7				
Mutendera st Boucher b Pollock	12				
Extras: (b-4, lb-5, nb-8)	17				
Total: (All out in 42.3 overs)	128				
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-5, 3-14, 4-25, 5-26, 6-35, 7-48, 8-72, 9-84					
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>	
Pollock	6.3	0	22	1	
Nel	8	2	11	5	

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Winners of the 12th Dhaka Metropolis Deaf Chess tournament pose with the guests at the NSC on Friday at the end of the five-day event.

PHOTO: AFP