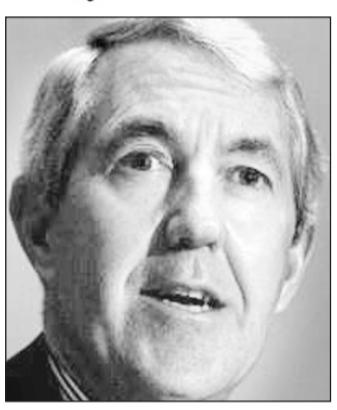




## Did U Know?

Great West Indies all-rounder Garfield Sobers was the first player to hit all the sixes in a first-class cricket in England. Ravishankar Shastri of India equalled the feat in their Ranji Trophy match against Vadodara in Mumbai in 1984-85.



## Sir Paul Condon

(Chief ICC anti-corruption investigator)

"I'm confident that at the moment we are on top of it. The words I've used around the world are that 'match-fixing has been suppressed'."

Said recently in South Africa.



## What to WATCH

ESPN  
Cricket Programming  
Super Selector  
October Launch  
10:30 am  
English Premiership  
Highlights at 12:00 pm  
Pakistan's cricket tour  
New Zealand 2001  
Fifth ODI  
Repeat at 1:30 pm  
Sportscenter Hindi  
Sports News  
Live at 8:30 pm  
Barcelona vs Leverkusen  
UEFA Champs' League  
Live at 12:30 am (Wednesday)

## STAR Sports

Sportsline Today  
Sports News  
8:00 am and 12:30 pm  
Harsha Online  
Cricket Talk Show  
8:30 am  
Arsenal vs Bolton  
English Premiership  
Repeat at 1:00 pm  
Sportsline Tonight  
Sports News  
Live at 8:00 pm  
Alaves vs Deportivo  
Primera Liga  
Repeat at 8:30 pm



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

3. What was Ashraful's score in his century innings against Sri Lanka in the Asian Test Championship?  
114 | 126

4. What was the result of the Test series between India and Sri Lanka?  
2-1 | 2-0

5. Former West Indies fast bowler Andy Roberts comes

Name .....

Class .....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

## BOA in sticky stew

### SPORTS REPORTER

1

The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) sits in an emergency meeting this evening to decide its next course of action following the postponement of the ninth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games.

The biggest regional sporting meet, which was scheduled for an October 6 start in Pakistan capital Islamabad, was officially called off on Sunday due to the possible US military attack on neighbouring Afghanistan.

The postponement, 13 days ahead of the Games, left the BOA in a total confusion as it had already spent nearly Taka one crore for this purpose. Funny though, they are yet to decide on whether to continue with their preparations or close the regional camps.

Around 111 athletes were in the final stage to compete in 13 events. Only football called off their training at the Mirpur Krira Palli a day after the postponement of the seven-day meet.

The delay for making a decision is because of the non availability of BOA secretary-general Zafar Imam, who reportedly fell ill at his home

town in Rajshahi. And, since no decision was made, the 'wise' BOA officials chose to waste some more money on SAF preparation.

It was understood that the BOA would eventually ask the 12 federations to close their respective camps. But the main fear of BOA is that the government might ask them to pay back the Taka one crore they drew in advance for taking part in the Games.

For the Games, the government okayed a budget of Taka 2.47 crore, Taka 1.97 crore for participation and Taka 50 lakh for training. The BOA received Taka 50 lakh for training and Taka one crore for participation from the government so far.

The BOA, who overspent on training purpose hoping to adjust it with the total amount after the contingent was reduced 200 to 174, admitted that they can not repay the government's Taka 1 crore, granted for participation purpose.

"We received Taka three lakh 55 thousand in three instalments for the first three phases to run our camp. But BOA is yet to pay us the remaining Taka 1.74 lakh that we have already spent. I don't know when we will get the money," said Chengis, who is the general secretary of the Bangladesh Amateur Athletics Federation (BAAF).

Now, the Olympic body is also in a dilemma over how to allocate the arrears for each federation's final phase training expenses.

"For last one month the camps are running on credit," said a BOA official, seeking anonymity.

"I have talked to the Finance Director of the NSC today and he gave me the impression that the government might ask for the Taka one crore (for participation) back," he said, adding that if that happens the BOA would be in deep trouble.

Due to torrential rain only 24 overs of play was possible on Sunday.

The match was arranged as part of Bangladesh's preparation for the home series against Zimbabwe, who will be arriving on November 5 to play two Tests and three one-day internationals.

It was also a build up for the Bangladesh A team, which will tour India next month.

Both teams have agreed to play a limited-overs match on Wednesday depending on the weather.

In fact, the rain-factor is no stranger to the national team.

Naimur's team was deprived of a single practice match when they spent eight weeks at the BKSP before their Asian Test Championship matches in Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

**BRIEF SCORES**

**BANGLADESH:** First innings 217 all out in 73.4 overs (Hasibul 57, Al-Shahri 35, Basheer 36; Kowshik 3/40, Bikash 2/28, Fahim 2/38)

**BANGLADESH A:** First innings 115 for 5 in 38 overs (Sanwar 43, Hasanuzzaman 39 not out; Sharif 3/10)

## India off to South Africa

### Cricket

#### AFP, New Delhi

Indian cricketers Monday left for South Africa hoping to pull off a miracle despite a struggling captain and a depleted attack.

India, seeking their first Test series victory outside the sub-continent in 15 years, will take part in a triangular one-day series against South Africa and Kenya next month and then play three Tests against the hosts in November during a 66-day tour.

Skipper Saurav Ganguly is out of form, having scored just one half-century in his last 16 Test innings. Injuries to young left-arm fast bowlers Zaheer Khan and Ashish Nehra have made his task more difficult on his toughest overseas assignment since taking over as captain from Sachin Tendulkar last year.

Besides himself, he has just two batsmen, Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid, who have experience of playing on the fast, bouncy South Africa pitches.

"The Indian captain is neither in form nor completely fit. So how is he going to lead by example?" former

skipper Bishan Bedi told AFP. "It is going to be a very, very tough tour for India. They struggled against Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka. I don't know what they will do against a strong South African team."

India drew a two-Test series 1-1 against Zimbabwe and then suffered a 2-1 defeat in Sri Lanka on their last two tours.

Bedi said the lack of fitness was the main reason for India's dismal overseas record in recent months.

"Fitness level of this team has to go up manifold. The game is all about fitness. Look at the Australians, how fit they are.

"In contrast, the Indian board conducted the fitness tests in a haphazard manner on Saturday and Sunday. I don't know how many will break down on the tour. I have not seen so many injuries in the Indian team before."

Six Indians -- Tendulkar, Khan, Nehra, Anil Kumble, Venkatesh Lakman and Jagaval Singh -- were unavailable due to injuries in recent months.

The scene is no different this time as, apart from the fast bowlers, top middle-order batsman Lakman has also had to pull out of the tri-series because he is yet to recover from a knee surgery.

A big consolation for Ganguly,

however, is the return of Tendulkar and leg-spinner Kumble. He has also the best available spin attack, with off-spinner Harbhajan Singh eagerly looking forward to bowling with Kumble.

India are expected to qualify for the triangular series final, as Kenya is considered the weakest of the three teams. But the real test will begin when they play three Tests with the hosts.

No Indian team has so far returned triumphant from South Africa, with Mohammad Azharuddin's team failing in 1992-93 and Tendulkar's men meeting with the same fate four seasons later.

India have yet to win a Test in South Africa, let alone a series. They lost one and drew three matches under Azharuddin and then lost two and drew one under Tendulkar.

They fared no better in one-day either, winning just two of the 12 matches.

Bedi said he expected no miracles from India this time.

"Miracles do not happen every day," he said. "It happened when India beat Australia at home early this year. I hope for the best, but am prepared for the worst."

## France, Nigeria in last four



### Championship.

Results of remaining quarterfinal games to be played Monday will determine the semifinal matchups.

France will play the winner of the Argentina-Mali game, while Nigeria meets the winner of Burkina Faso-Costa Rica. Both semifinal games will be Thursday.

Against Brazil, a disciplined and persistent French attack opened the scoring in the 38th minute of the first half. Stephen Drouin fired off a shot from outside the area. It was deflected and lifted high in the air. Star striker Florent Sinama Pongolle headed it in for the goal.

Pongolle's eighth goal in the championship, equaling the under-17 tournament record set by West Germany's Marcel Witeczek in 1985.

A minute later there was a break-

away down the left side by speedy Emmer Fae, who centered it to Pongolle. The small striker, shadowed by a defender, managed a head pass to Anthony Le Tallec. He connected for France's second score.

In the 69th, the French defence was defeated by Brazilian midfielder Alberoni. He ran down a long pass and from the edge of the penalty fired it past goalkeeper Florent Chaigneau.

Brazil, which had won all its games in this year's tournament, had won the under-17 in 1999 and also in 1997.

Nigeria was led by striker Femi Opabunmi, who had a hat-trick, as the Africans thrashed Australia.

In a show of dominance, the Africans scored three goals in six minutes of the second half.

In the 24th minute Omonigho Temile penetrated the Australian defense and was fouled. Opabunmi converted the penalty for the first half's only goal.

In the second half, Nigeria built momentum, then exploded.

In the 69th minute, substitute Victor Brown dizzied defenders with his dribbling near the goal-line. He finally centered it to Opabunmi, who drilled it in for his second goal of the game.

In the 79th, Joseph Eymofe got off a pass to Opabunmi, who rocketed the ball into the ceiling of the goal for his hat-trick.

Two minutes later, Temile found Mohammed Suleiman hovering near the goal with a high center. Suleiman headed it in for Nigeria's fourth.

In the 85th minute, Temile found the nets for Nigeria's fifth with a shot from near the edge of the penalty area.

Australia managed to score a minute later, when a head pass from Spase Dilevski was headed in by Matthew Engle.

Nigeria won the tournament in 1993 and in 1985, its inaugural year. In the last under-17 FIFA championship in 1999, Australia was runner-up.

Both of Sunday's games were

played at the Dwight Yorke Stadium in Tobago, the smaller partner in the twin-island republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

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played at the Dwight Yorke Stadium in Tobago, the smaller partner in the twin-island republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

## Four-day game abandoned

### SPORTS REPORTER

2

The four-day match of the national team against the Bangladesh A team was called off due to heavy rain on Monday.

The first practice match of Naimur's men since they returned from Colombo after a disappointing Asian Test Championship campaign was washed out on the third day without a ball being bowled.

Due to torrential rain only 24 overs of play was possible on Sunday.

The match was arranged as part

of Bangladesh's preparation for the home series against Zimbabwe, who will be arriving on November 5 to play two Tests and three one-day internationals.

It was also a build up for the

Bangladesh A team, which will tour India next month.

Their last Group C match is

on September 28 at the Mohun

Bagan Club ground.

Muktijoddha, who played their

first match at half strength, will

be bolstered by the arrival of four key

players. Custodian Aminul Haque,

defenders Rajani Kanta Barman,

Prodeep Poddar and midfielder

Matir Rahman Munna have all

been released from the SAF

Games camp Sunday.

The quartet is expected to fly

into Kolkata today.

Earlier, defending champions

East Bengal thrashed Tollygunge

Agragami by four goals to one in the

tournament opener at the same

venue.

Twelve teams, including second

string Brazilian side Palmeiras, are

taking part in the meet.

## Muktis begin in style

### Football

#### SPORTS REPORTER