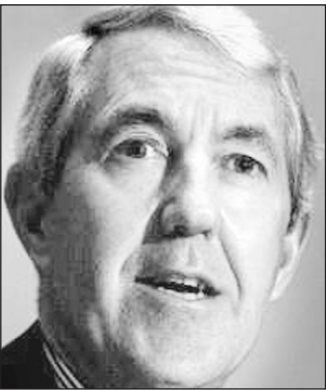




## Did U Know?

Great West Indies all-rounder Garfield Sobers was the first player to hit all the six balls of an over for a six 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.**



**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



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

## BOA in sticky stew

SPORTS REPORTER

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. Funnily though, they are yet to decide on whether to continue with their preparations or close the residential 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-nation 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 Take 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.

It was learnt that the BOA had decided to spend an additional Taka 30 lakh among the 13 federations after they had exhausted the original 50 lakh Taka budget before the final phases.

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.

"We have already given orders for blazers, trousers, shirts, ties, track suits and other gears for the contingent. We are awaiting to receive those items," he said.

Meanwhile, most of the 13 federations who are due to get the money as the cost of their final phase of training expressed their dissatisfaction over the BOA.

"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 Chenghis, who is the general secretary of the Bangladesh Amateur Athletics Federation (BAAF).

## India off to South Africa



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, Venkatesai Laxman and Javagal Srinath -- 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 Laxman 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-dayers 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.

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

A minute later there was a break-

away down the left side by speedy Emmers 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 Opaunni, 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. Opaunni 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 ditched defenders with his dribbling near the goal-line. He finally centered it to Opaunni, who drilled it in for his second goal of the game.

In the 79th, Joseph Eyimofe got off a pass to Opaunni, 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 Engele.

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.

## Four-day game abandoned

SPORTS REPORTER

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.

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-Shahriar 35, Bashar 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)

## Slater back in the runs

AFP, Melbourne

Axed Test opener Michael Slater has set about regaining his place in the Australian team with a century in a weekend club match.

The irrepressible New South Wales right-hander was dumped from Steve Waugh's team for the final Ashes Test against England in London two months ago because of poor form and personal issues.

Slater only returned home from Europe last week and got straight back to the job when he blasted 111 for his Sydney grade side University of New South Wales last Saturday.

He was here Monday for a meeting of the Australian Cricket Board's contracted players ahead of the new season and said he had the right attitude to reclaim his Test spot in the world champion Australian team.

## England recall Silverwood, Thorpe

REUTERS, London

Pace bowler Chris Silverwood and batsman Graham Thorpe have been called up to the England one-day squad for the tour of Zimbabwe starting later this month.

Silverwood replaces James Ormond, who has tendinitis in his right knee, and Thorpe is in for all-rounders Craig White, who is ruled out with a twisted right knee.

## Cronje indebted to fans



INTERNET, London

Hansie Cronje and his wife Bertha decided together to sell the story of his cricket downfall to say "thank you to our supporters for standing by us".

This is the "incredible" reason the former South African cricket captain gave to the British Sunday Telegraph in what is described as his first newspaper interview in more than a year.

Under the heading "The Gospel according to Hansie Cronje" is a big colour photo of Cronje standing with arms spread out against the backdrop of the lush southern Cape hills. His head is tilted heavenwards. His eyes are closed. He looks like an ecstatic umpire calling a wide or rather a charismatic preacher blessing his flock.

The British reporter describes how 'majestically charming' and 'witty' Cronje was during their meeting. He speculates that Cronje may be like this everyday, but surmises that it may have something to do with the court case that he has to attend in Pretoria from Wednesday.

Cronje is appealing against the life ban that the United Cricket Board (UCB) of South Africa placed him under regarding play-

## Muktis begin in style



SPORTS REPORTER

Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra got off to a flying start in the 107th IFA Shield with a 3-1 win over Vietnamese giants Nam Dinh FC in their Group C opener at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata, West Bengal, last night.

The Federation Cup holders led the runners-up of the Vietnam League by a solitary goal at the breather.

Nigerian striker Emeka Achilefu, the top scorer in the Dhaka Premier League, struck two goals in either half for the all reds. Uzbek forward Nazaraf Yarkin, who is playing his first match for Muktijoddha this season, netted the other goal.

It was an entertaining match according to a Kolkata reporter, who gave an account of the game to the Daily Star over telephone.

Luong Phuc Nguyen scored the only goal for the South East Asian team.

Emeka, with ten goals in the Premier League, put his side ahead in the 31st minute.

But Nam Dinh Club stormed back into the match through Nguyen's 50th minute strike.

Muktijoddha however did not relent in their pursuit of three valuable points in the prestigious football tournament in India. They were

rewarded for their persistent attacks with two goals in a space of 23 minutes.

Yarkin, who made his first appearance for Muktijoddha two years ago and had joined the team a week before the tournament got underway, put the Dhaka giants back in front in the 57th minute.

A tall and macular Emeka then wrapped up the match with his second goal ten minutes before the final whistle.

The victory confirms Muktijoddha's place in the quarterfinals with a game in hand against the home team's Under-19 selection. 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 Matlur 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.

## Davis Cup

## Britain, Spain return



REUTERS, London

Claycourt heroics from Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski over the week-end earned Britain a place in the Davis Cup world group with an impressive victory over Ecuador.

They were joined in the top flight by last year's champions Spain, who beat Uzbekistan.

The Cup holders were forced to qualify for the elite group of 16 nations after suffering a first-round defeat in the Netherlands in February.

Ecuador, strong favourites to beat Britain on their favoured clay surface in Guayaquil, were stunned into submission by superb performances from Henman and Rusedski.

Both serve-volleyers mastered the slow Ecuadorean surface to win their opening singles before team-

## Gibbs gearing up for Aussie Tests

REUTERS, Bulawayo

Herschelle Gibbs, who hit South Africa's fastest one-day international century on Sunday, is already looking forward to their Test battles with world champions Australia starting later this year.

"Our top six is really looking strong and hopefully our form continues, because we want to start peaking just before we play Australia," Gibbs said after reaching three figures in 84 balls on his way to 125 against Zimbabwe.

South Africa play three Tests on their tour of Australia beginning in December, then return home for three Tests against the touring Australians next February and March.

Gibbs said his innings on Sunday, which set his side on the way to a 153-run win in the first of three one-dayers, was a case of being in the right form, in the right place and at the right time.

"We had to make use of the new ball, because we knew it would come on a lot better in the early part of the innings than in the latter part," Gibbs said.

"Fortunately, myself and (opening partner) Gary (Kirsten) have been hitting the ball really nicely and it was just a matter of time

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Dominik Hrbaty of Slovakia is thrown in the air by his teammates after he defeated Marcelo Rios of Chile in their Davis Cup World Group qualifier in Presov.

we wanted to maintain that record and we certainly did that."

Rusedski, whose victory over Nicolas Lapentti in the opening singles was the highlight of the tie, said: "It was important to get British tennis to where it should be -- in the top-16 in the world -- and hopefully now we can go further."

British captain Roger Taylor said: "I am delighted and elated that we're back in the World Group again...it is what we were aiming for and now we have to make sure we win our first rounds and stay there."

Also winning a place in the top flight were Croatia as Wimbledon champion Goran Ivanisevic steered his country to victory over Italy.

The left-hander was beaten in his opening match by unheralded Filippo Volandri in five tough sets but Ivan Ljubicic levelled the match with victory over Federico Luzzi.

The Croatians teamed up to beat the Italian pairing of Giorgio Galimberti and Mose Navarra in a five-set thriller and Ivanisevic sealed victory with a 7-6 6-3 6-4 win over Luzzi.

Alex Corretja and Juan Balcells secured Spain's spot by beating Uzbekistan pair Oleg Ogorodov and Vadim Kutsenko 5-7, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 on Sunday.

Spain won the Davis Cup for the first time last year but were forced into a play-off to retain their top flight status after suffering the Dutch defeat on an unfamiliar indoor carpet surface.

Back on clay, though, Spain were predictably far too strong for their

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