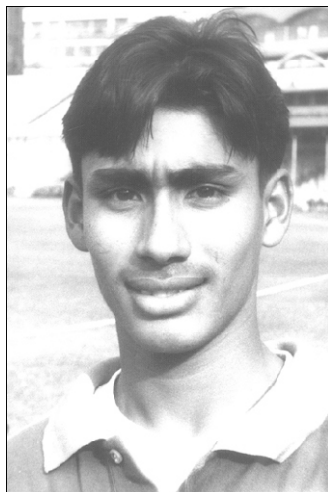




## Did U Know?

Bombay Gymkhana hosted the first ever Test in India in 1933-34. The historic match was played against England.



**Mohammed Ashrafal**  
(Bangladesh's prodigal son)  
"I can pick it by watching his hand."  
How he played Muttiah Muralitharan's wrong'un.



**ESPN**

World Cup Soccer Mix  
6:00 am  
Sportscentre Hindi  
Sport News  
6:30 am  
The Npower Test Series  
Pakistan vs England  
First Test, Day Two  
Highlights at 10:00 am  
Sportscentre Hindi  
Sport News  
Live at 8:30 pm  
ATP Tennis Show  
9:00 pm

**STAR Sports**

Sportsline Today  
Sport News  
7:30 am  
Harsha Online  
Cricket Talk Show  
8:30 am  
Futbol Mundial  
11:00 am  
Sportsline Today  
Sport News  
12:30 pm  
**Primera Liga**  
Deportivo La Coruna vs Villareal  
1:00 pm  
Harsha Online  
Cricket Talk Show  
3:00 pm  
**South Africa Tri Series**  
India vs South Africa  
First ODI  
Live at 6:30 pm

**Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 159**

Tick the Correct Answers Post to  
**The Daily Star**  
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm  
Oct 12, 2001 and draw shortly afterwards

- How many runs did Herschelle Gibbs score in the first ODI against Zimbabwe?  
115 125
- Who clinched the Princess Cup tennis title?  
Hingis Dokic
- Who became the new Australian Cricket Board chief?  
Denis Rogers Bob Merriman Geoff Marsh
- What was the result of the South Africa and Zimbabwe Test series?  
2-0 1-0
- Who became Shanghai Open Champion?  
Chang Schuttler Agassi

Class. .... Roll No. ....  
School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

## A price too dear

LENIN GANI

Following the Bangladesh Nationalist Party's overwhelming success in the parliamentary polls the political landscape has been altered. The enthusiasm shown by people who cast their vote has been substituted with an air of curiosity as the debate on composition of the elected government intensifies.

And among the questions to be asked in the coming days particularly by the country's sports lovers is who becomes the next Bangladesh Cricket Board president?

Traditionally, the ruling party nominates somebody from within the rank and file. So, when the BNP came to power in 1991, they picked the late foreign minister Mostafizur Rahman for the post.

But since then a lot has changed notably Bangladesh's elevation to the tenth Test-playing country, so this means the choice of candidate might not be an open and shut case.

Begum Khaleida Zia's government can, however, prove its sincerity to the cause of sports and ask the Board to choose their own leader to avoid making the office of president 'political.'

Without a head the body cannot function. Silly though it may sound the analogy applies to an organisation too.

Cricket for a long time was playing second fiddle to the football authorities of the land until Saber Hossain Chowdhury came along.

He wanted to put Bangladesh on the world map. And within a couple of years he realised the dream of millions by successfully presenting our case to join the international fraternity at Lord's in June last year.

Everything said and done he was still a deputy minister in Sheikh Hasina's cabinet. That is why the interim administration replaced him as well as six other federation chiefs in August in the run-up to the general elections.

The concept of appointing politicians to run a sports body is no longer feasible or desirable. It is not fair for an organisation to be deprived of an efficient administrator. Sometimes his departure occurs at the worse possi-

ble time before the staging of a major tournament or the arrival of a foreign team.

Thankfully, when Saber left the scene preparations for holding Zimbabwe's tour in November were almost complete.

On the other hand, the respective sports organiser might be unwilling to censure a certain person(s) since doing so might harm his own standing in the party.

And it did happen after some corrupt persons manipulated the BCB elections held in February. And even though they were found guilty, the culprits were never expelled and allowed to sit at subsequent Board meetings.

The governments of tomorrow must relinquish their direct control in the various sports bodies. Apart from Saber nobody ever seriously did anything for cricket. Perhaps they lacked the necessary insight to make an impact.

All political parties pledge to separate the judiciary from the legislature prior to the polls, but it is yet to happen. By comparison, keeping politics out of the sports arena doesn't require tremendous technical skill. If there is a will there is a way.

Recently the BCB took a bold step in setting up an Anti-Corruption Unit. Now if that were possible then lobbying for a non-partisan president would be very easy.

The politicians should be more concerned about working for the welfare of the country and its people and leave the day-to-day business of sports management for the experts.

The new government might start their term by amending the existing NSC Act. The preamble could read: "That only persons with background in sports will be regarded as the legitimate head of a federation."

The country can ill-afford a repeat of the Saber Hossain episode in the future. Why? Because genuine sports administrators are such a rarity!

## IFA Shield semis Muktis take on samba boys today

SPORTS REPORTER

Muktijodha Sangsad Krira Chakra will rub shoulders with a Brazilian football when the Dhaka giants take on Palmeiras in the first semifinal of the 107th IFA Shield Tournament in Kolkata today.

The eagerly anticipated match will kick off at the Howrah Stadium at 3pm (BST).

When Muktijodha face the Under-19 squad of Palmeiras, whose main team is currently occupying second place in the Brazilian League standings, the all reds will want to forget their miserable run in this year's Premier League.

The Federation Cup champions failed to even reach the Super Three stage.

Muktijodha under new coach Abu Yousuf have fared quite well in India's oldest invitational competition that began on September 24.

They stormed into the last four with three straight wins including a 3-0 thrashing of the youthful Tata Football Academy in the quarterfinals on Wednesday.

Palmeiras also maintained a perfect record en route to the semifinals. The samba boys swamped Vietnamese side Nam Dinh 6-1 on the same day.

Earlier, defending champions East Bengal became the first team to march into the semifinals with a 6-0 whitewash of FC Kochin at the Salt Lake Stadium on Tuesday. The giants of West Bengal will meet either arch-rivals Mohun Bagan or Tollygunge Agragami in the other semifinal on Saturday.

The final is billed for Sunday.

## Board preparing seven pitches



SPORTS REPORTER

An instruction raised confusion for some time Thursday that Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) was planning to hold a tri-nation tournament during Zimbabwe's tour of Bangladesh in November.

It spread when grounds committee secretary and Board director Alam Chowdhury was asked by his fellow director Syed Ashrafal Huq to prepare Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) for seven matches in November.

Zimbabwe, due to arrive in the city on November 5, are scheduled to play three matches in Dhaka—one Test and two ODIs. The other Test and ODI matches will be held in Chittagong.

When contacted, Ashrafal however cleared the air later in the evening.

He admitted that he indeed asked Alam to complete all the seven strips of the BNS before the arrival of Zimbabwe, but it was only to allow the national team to play some practice matches.

"You can be rest assured that we don't have any plan of holding a tri-nation meet," said Ashrafal over

telephone.

Meanwhile, Alam Chowdhury and architect Mobassher Hossain revealed that the re-construction works at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong is going in full swing to host the international matches.

Talking to this correspondent, both the directors expressed their total satisfaction over the progress in Chittagong.

"The structural job is done ahead of the schedule, and if everything goes fine, all the works should be finished by 20th of this month," said Mobassher.

Alam on the other hand revealed that the laying of four new pitches at the MA Aziz Stadium has already been completed and the Board is planning to send its national team over there to get the feel of them. The senior team will play a three-day match, starting on Oct 20.

Alam said that Shawkatul Rahman Chinn, a grounds committee member, visited Chittagong last week and submitted an encouraging report on the progress of the ground preparation.

"I will be able to give you a clear picture about everything in Chittagong next week," said Alam, adding that he would go to the port city in next four days.

## ACB's new catch rule

REUTERS, Sydney

Australian cricket officials have decided to abandon the use of video umpires to rule on contentious catches during this season's interstate first-class and one-day matches.

The third umpire system will still be used in Tests and one-day internationals, which are governed by the International Cricket Council's playing conditions, but not in local domestic matches.

The decision was made by the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) following complaints from players, who believe the final decision should revert back to the on-field official if the video umpire's evidence is inconclusive.

The ACB had tried to have the third umpire's role in adjudicating catches banned at international level, but was over-ruled by the ICC's playing committee.

An ACB spokesman said the board decided to abandon their use after reviewing last year's statistics which showed that every time a catch was referred to the third umpire, the batsman was given not out because of the inconclusive nature of the footage.

"We've made no secret of our views on the use of video replays to adjudicate on catches and that's reinforced by those figures," the spokesman said.

## SA tri-series from today



INTERNET, Johannesburg

With almost unseemly haste, the local international season begins in Johannesburg on Friday night.

South Africa play India in the opening game of the Standard Bank Summer Spice Series having returned from Zimbabwe only four days previously.

In Zimbabwe, the South Africans were rarely pushed, but the tour did serve to brush away any cobwebs that may have formed during the short winter break.

Without putting too fine a point on it, South Africa mercilessly crushed their northern neighbours. Against India they can expect a far stiffer examination.

The Indians have begun their tour of the country with a gentle opener against a Nicky Oppenheimer selection at Randjesfontein — whom they dealt with comfortably enough — and a more strenuous outing against a fairly strong South Africa A side in Benoni on Wednesday night.

Although the tourists eventually won with five balls remaining and three wickets in the bank, they would have preferred a more comfortable winning margin.

If they had not fielded so badly, they probably would not have had to sweat to such a degree.

It is staggering that in the modern game an international team neglects such an important part of the game, especially in the one day version of cricket.

Less worrying, but nonetheless a concern, is the effectiveness of their pace attack. The Wanderers track

is, for the first time in a while, expected to be hard and fast. On the evidence of the past two games, India's seamers may well battle to impress on such a track.

For class in the bowling department the Indians will rely almost totally on Anil Kumble.

Before this tour, Kumble had not played cricket for a year. Against the Oppenheimer selection, Kumble



SHAUN POLLOCK

merely eased back into bowling. Against SA A he was outstanding. His opening five overs cost the spinner just five runs as he placed a stranglehold on the innings.

The other plus to come out of the Benoni encounter was the form of the lesser known batsmen. Without Sachin Tendulkar or Saurav Ganguly, India still managed to deal comfortably with the pace attack under lights.

Particularly impressive was how well Yuvraj Singh and Ajit Agarkar steadied the Indian ship after a mini-collapse. Their 87 run partnership from 69 balls was what won the

game for the Indians. At the Wanderers, India will probably be strengthened by the inclusion of Rahul Dravid and Sachin Tendulkar. Both practised at the Wanderers nets on Thursday morning. Surprisingly, and granted that it is a quick Wanderers track, Harbhajan Singh is likely to be left out the team.

TEAMS



SAURAV GANGULY

INDIA (likely): Saurav Ganguly (captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Jacob Martin, Yuvraj Singh, Shiv Das, Deep Dasgupta, Ajit Agarkar, Anil Kumble, Javagal Srinath, Venketash Prasad, Virender Shewag, Harbhajan Singh, Harvinder Singh, Reetinder Sodhi.

SOUTH AFRICA (from): Shaun Pollock (captain), Gary Kirsten, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Neil McKenzie, Jonty Rhodes, Lance Klusener, Mark Boucher, Justin Kemp, Makhaya Ntini, Claude Henderson, Andre Nel.

## India driven by Agarkar



AFP, Benoni

Ajit Agarkar took three wickets then slammed 49 off 43 balls as India scrambled a three-wicket win against South Africa A in a day-night match at Willowmoore Park Wednesday.

India, without injured batsmen Saurav Ganguly and Sachin Tendulkar, seemed headed for defeat when he came in to bat with his side six wickets down, needing 86 to win off 13 overs after South Africa A had made 241 for six.

Agarkar went for his shots and struck the ball cleanly, while left-hander Yuvraj Singh (46 not out) provided solid support in a seventh-wicket stand of 78 off 69 balls.

It was the last match for the Indians before they meet South Africa in Johannesburg Friday in the first match of a triangular international series which also features Kenya.

Until the late, match-winning flurry it had been a disappointing performance by the tourists but leg-spinner Anil Kumble and batsman Jacob Martin also showed good form ahead of the international games.

Kumble, out of action for almost a year because of a shoulder injury, conceded only 15 runs in 10 overs and took the wicket of Jacques Rudolph, South Africa A's talented opening batsman. He scarcely

bowled a bad ball and looked ready to resume his role as India's leading bowler.

Agarkar and Martin, who both joined the tour as replacements for injured players, staked claims for places in the starting line-up for the international games. Martin made a solid 58 to be his side's top scorer.

India were led by tour vice-captain Rahul Dravid because Ganguly had an injured right index finger, while Tendulkar withdrew because of a recurrence of the stress fracture injury to his right foot which caused him to miss a recent series against Sri Lanka. Tendulkar is expected to play Friday but Ganguly is a doubtful starter.

Fast bowler Mornantau Hayward withdrew from the South Africa A team because of flu. He had himself replaced injured fast bowler Mfuneko Ngam.

A lifting ball from Hayward was the cause of Ganguly's injury in the opening tour match against a Nicky Oppenheimer XI at Randjesfontein Monday.

South Africa A made a fast start to their innings, with Boeta Dippenaar and Rudolph putting on 62 for the first wicket in 11 overs but Agarkar and Kumble sent them slipping to 75 for three.

But a century fourth wicket stand between Martin van Jaarsveld (69) and Gerald Dros (85) enabled South Africa A to post a reasonable total on a slow pitch.

India's ground fielding was

disappointing and there were numerous fumbles, which enabled the home side to turn singles into two, while several boundaries were scored which more agile fielding could have prevented.

By contrast, the South Africans were sharp and aggressive in the field, although Dippenaar dropped a simple chance at midwicket at a crucial stage, when Dravid was on 31 and India were 114 for two.

Dippenaar made up for his lapse 19 runs later when he ran out Martin with a direct hit from the same position, ending a third wicket stand of 91 off 135 balls. Dravid was bowled for 35 in the next over, uncharacteristically swinging across the line against fast bowler Roger Telemachus.

Martin, 28, who has played in eight one-day internationals, only received his call-up for the tour after first VVS Laxman then Hemang Badani withdrew because of injuries. He survived a shaky start but then played a stylish innings to make 54 off 81 balls with seven fours.

Reetinder Singh Sodhi and Deep Dasgupta both fell cheaply but Agarkar took advantage when part-time bowler Martin van Jaarsveld came on, launching an assault which cost the bowler 20 runs in two overs.

SEE PAGE 15

## Hussain hails new boys

REUTERS, Harare

England captain Nasser Hussain was full of praise for his young side after their five-wicket win over Zimbabwe in the first of five one-day internationals.

Hussain led from the front by scoring 73, but it was the contributions of the four debutants that enabled England to end an 11-match losing streak.

Opening bowlers Matthew Hoggard and James Kirtley bowled superbly, with Hoggard taking two for 25 in 10 overs and Kirtley two for 33 in 9.1 to help dismiss Zimbabwe for 206.

Off-spinner Jeremy Snape also took two wickets, while wicketkeeper James Foster made up for a howler when he dropped Craig Wishart by neatly stumping Andy and Grant Flower off Snape.

"To come out here with four people on debut in a place where we lost 3-0 with a much more experienced side and to play the way we did was pleasing," Hussain said.

"Obviously, we have plenty of things to work on but we're 1-0 up in a five-match series when we have lost 11 on the bounce.

SEE PAGE 15

## Kirtley action suspect?



REUTERS/AFP, undated

England newboy James Kirtley has found himself at the centre of another throwing controversy on the current tour of Zimbabwe.

However, the young fast bowler, who took 2-33 as Nasser Hussain's men beat Zimbabwe in the first of five one-day internationals in Harare on Wednesday, has received the full backing of his Sussex county boss Peter Moores.

Kirtley, who opened the bowling as England dismissed the home side for 206 on their way to a five-wicket win, had his celebrations cut short after the match as match referee Colonel Nausahad Ali questioned his bowling action.

It is not the first time that the Sussex paceman has been hit with such allegations — he faced similar claims after an England A tour to Australia in 1999 and was cleared by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) after studies at Brighton University.

"What is very frustrating for us is I think is that we've been through this before," said Moores on Thursday.

"The ECB did say there was a question mark against him. We did a biomechanical analysis at Brighton University, which proved beyond any doubt that his action was legitimate and he was cleared by an ECB panel.

"It just doesn't seem fair to me. They've analysed it, it is all passed clear and yet we still seem to be in the same position."

Moores has called on the ECB to back Kirtley to the hilt — and condemned what he sees as a negative attitude to up-and-coming pace bowlers.

"I hope the ECB take a very strong line on this. They have been

there already so it would be strange if they didn't back him," he said.

"It's the vogue thing that any young quick bowler had to go through the mill of 'if he's any good he chucks it'."

"It was expensively examined, examining the elbow joint which was proved not to move."



JAMES KIRTLEY

However, the ECB has not received any formal complaint from Nausahad Ali over his bowling action this time.

Ali, a Pakistani, told the media that Kirtley's action was under scrutiny.

"Neither the England team management nor the ECB has received any communication from the match referee concerning James Kirtley's bowling action under the procedures laid down by the International Cricket Council (ICC)," the ECB said in a statement on Thursday.

"The ECB will continue to adhere to ICC procedures regarding this matter and it would not be appropriate for us to comment further on this matter."

Ali told reporters he wanted to see footage of Kirtley's action but that he had not yet formally charged him.

"I had a look at him," Ali said on Thursday. "The umpires were not in favour of doing anything but I would like another look at him. We would certainly like to observe him on Saturday."

The procedure in cases of suspect bowling actions, according to ICC regulations, is that the umpires must first report the player to the match referee in writing.

The referee will then review video footage of that match, or a subsequent match if none was available.

In this instance neither the first phase nor the second phase of the procedure has been followed.

**Million-dollar 6!**  
REUTERS, Sydney

Australia's cricketers have been offered the chance to win 1 million Australian dollars (500,000 US) with one well-timed shot.

The sponsor of Australia's interstate one-day series has promised to pay the sum to any batsman who smashes a six into one of four special advertising signs located around the ground.

The only catch is they need to hit a six in the same over to activate the jackpot signs before going for the jackpot.

The Million Dollar Jackpot is the latest in a series of innovations that have been used to try and attract fans to Australian interstate matches.

Australian captain Steve Waugh collected 140,000 dollars six years ago when he successfully hit a designated target, and a number of other players have also struck it lucky.