

## BCB gets serious



SPORTS REPORTER

With only three weeks left before the first Test against Zimbabwe, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Akmal Hossain has decided to convene an emergency meeting today at the Board's stadium office at 4pm.

Since the political changes following the October 1 general election, the Board has not been able to prepare for the two-Test series against the Zimbabweans.

After the tourists arrive here on November 5, they will play the opening Test at the Bangabandhu National stadium four days later.

Things at the Board got momentum with the visit of State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman on Thursday. He assured the directors of complete cooperation from the new government.

The meeting call caught most of the BCB officials by surprise. As a result they were found busy spending their holidays preparing their individual progress reports.

Board director Enayet Hossain Siraj, chairman of the

Ground and Facilities Committee told The Daily Star Sport yesterday that his committee would seek a separate meeting with Akmal an hour before the Board meeting starts.

However, chairman of the Cricket Committee and Board director Syed Ashrafu Huq is going to miss the meeting. The Board's former general secretary is expected to return from Kuala Lumpur on October 22 after attending the two-day ICC executive committee meeting which ended on Friday.

Meanwhile, the new sports boss intends to hold an inter-ministerial meeting on the Zimbabwe tour. It will be held on Monday at 11 am at his Secretariat office.

Representatives from 13 Ministries, and officials of essential services like Dhaka City Corporation, T&T, WASA, PDB, DESSA, as well as the BDR, and the police will be present.

The Zimbabwe tour also includes three one-day internationals.

The second Test starts at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong on November 15. The first one-day match will also be held in Chittagong on November 23.

The last two ODIs will be held in Dhaka on November 25 and 26.

## Muktis off to Male

SPORTS REPORTER

An 18-member Muktijoddha Sangsad Kriya Chakra football team left last night for Male to play their 21st Asian Club Cup first round away match against New Radiant Club of Maldives.

The game is on October 23 while the return leg is going to be held at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on November 9.

The winners for the first round will meet Korean side Anyang, who earned a first round bye, in the next round in November.

This will be the second foreign trip for the all-reds in October. The Federation Cup champions also took part in the IFA Shield in Kolkata early this month and reached the last four.

However, they were eliminated oldest Indian invitational tournament after losing 2-1 to the under-19 selection of Brazilian club Palmeiras.

Muktijoddha have included three foreigners. They are two Nigerians defender Salio Abdul Wasio and forward Emeca Achilefu and Uzbek midfielder Nazarov Yarkin.

"We will fine the errant countries a minimum of two million dollars. It also depends on the cost factor to the opposing team," he said.

The ICC executive board Friday also discussed deteriorating standards of player behaviour and agreed to a principle of a three of four stage disciplinary system with set penalties for each stage.

The system is expected to be formally approved at an executive meeting next March and will take effect in April.

"Improving on-field discipline is a major priority and the new system will add greatly to the authority and consistency of decision making that we will ask of the match referees," ICC chief executive officer Malcolm Speed said.

Ethics committees have also been approved for all national teams, a move unanimously supported by Test match captains.

The board also agreed in principle to a one-day international championship as well as the World Cup.

Gray said the championship would ensure that if a five-match series is decided after the third game, the remaining two matches will be competitive.

"All results of all matches will go into a database where we will compile the results to rank teams. This will ensure that teams do not throw away their matches after taking a winning lead and also prevent fixing of matches," he explained.

They also approved prize money set for the 2003 World Cup in South Africa.

The winner will receive approximately 2.2 million dollars from a total prize fund of five million dollars. The tournament will feature 54 matches spread over 15 locations, 12 in South Africa, two in Zimbabwe and one in Kenya.

A progress report was given for each of the 24 recommendations in Paul Condon's Anti-Corruption Unit report and several extra recommendations were approved.

These included creating ethics committees in national teams and

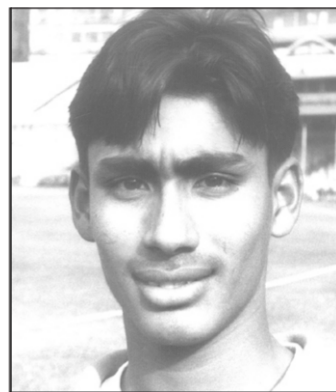
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## Marauding Ashrafu, Mahmud



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A team registered their second successive win in Mumbai on Friday with a comprehensive 71-run win over the Cricket Club of India (CCI) President's Eleven at the Brabourne Stadium.



ASHRAFU...62

Half-centuries by opener Mohammad Ashrafu and skipper Khaled Mahmud guided the tourists, who batted first, to a fighting total of 228 in 48.1 overs.

It was another superb display of batsmanship by Ashrafu, the youngest Test centurion on debut. His 62 off 76 balls included nine fours.

He was following up on his all-round show against the same opponents on Wednesday. In that game Ashrafu claimed two wickets with his leg spin and hit a breezy 53-ball 46 to enable the national second-string team record a six-wicket win in their opening match.

Mahmud plundered eight boundaries in a run-a-ball 61.

Masrafe-bin-Mortuza Kowshik

then kept the scoreboard ticking over with a rapid 14-ball 23.

The versatile cricketer who has been touted as a future fast bowler, slammed two huge sixes and as many fours in his cameo.

In reply, the home side was bundled out for 157 in 39.5 overs with lower-order Vineet Sharma hammering highest 33 while former Indian Test player Sairaj Bahutule made 27.



KHALED MAHMUD...61

And after right-arm seamer Kowshik snapped up two quick wickets, it was left to left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique and off-spinner Fahim Muntasir to run through the tail.

Rafique bagged three for 46 while Fahim grabbed two wickets for 30 runs.

The visitors next play a three-day match against the Mumbai Colts at the Wankhede Stadium from October 22 to 24.

Scoreboard of one-day match between Bangladesh A and Cricket Club of India (CCI) President's Eleven at the Brabourne Stadium on Friday:

### BANGLADESHA

Ashrafu c Ricky b Hazare	62
Rafiqu c Samant b Sharma	16
Tushar c b Sharma	2
Sanwar lbw b D Singh	5
Hasanuzzaman lbw b Hazare	1
K Mahmud b Morris	61
Mushfik c Sawant b Bahutule	22
Kowshik b Morris	23
Rafique b Morris	13
Fahim run out	7
Anwar not out	10
Extras: (lb-2, w-4)	6
Total: (All out in 48.1 overs)	228

Fall of wickets: 1-56, 2-62, 3-83, 4-84, 5-99, 6-121, 7-125, 8-209, 9-210.				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
G Singh	6	0	21	0
Sharma	8.1	1	39	2
Bahutule	10	0	44	1
D Singh	10	1	34	1
Hazare	4	0	16	2
Bundella	1	0	8	0
S Sawant	3	0	24	0
Morris	6	0	39	3

### CCI PRESIDENT'S XI

Morris c Rafiqu b Kowshik	0
Ricky c Anwar b Mushfik	7
S Sawant c Mushfik b Kowshik	7
Bundella c Anwar b Rafique	10
Pranje b Fahim	23
Bahutule run out	27
Samant b Rafique	32
Sharma c Rafique b Fahim	33
Hazare not out	6
G Singh b Rafique	2
D Singh run out	1
Extras: (lb-1, w-8)	9
Total: (All out in 39.5 overs)	157

Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-22, 3-36, 4-72, 5-88, 6-145, 7-148, 8-150, 9-151.				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Kowshik	6	1	13	2
Mushfik	7	0	18	1
K Mahmud	7	0	48	0
Rafique	9.5	0	46	3
Fahim	10	0	30	2

**Result: Bangladesh A won by 71 runs.**

## Cricket on neutral grounds

AGENCIES, Kuala Lumpur

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has approved the use of neutral venues for countries that are unable to host Test series during the current global unrest.

Pakistan and India are likely to be the hardest hit because they neighbour war-torn Afghanistan, ICC president Malcolm Gray said.

New Zealand pulled out of a tour of Pakistan scheduled for this month after the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

"Cricket in some countries, most notably Pakistan, is in the front line of world events," said ICC president Malcolm Gray at the conclusion of an executive board meeting on Friday.

"We need to adopt creative solutions to support those affected and to overcome those problems. In agreeing to use independent venues, the board was totally supportive that every effort should be made to assist them."

But England will go to India next month as scheduled, he said.

On Wednesday, top officials from England and India agreed at the meeting in Kuala Lumpur that there was no reason "at the present time why the England tour to India next month should not go ahead," the ECB said in a statement.

England's Lord MacLaurin and Tim Lamb met with Indian cricket board president Jagmohan Dalmiya, who said he had discussed with the Indian government the provision of appropriate security for the England team.

If a match or series cannot be played at a home venue, it may now be rescheduled to the opposing team's country or to a neutral venue.

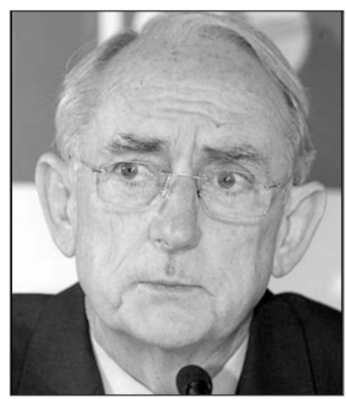
Countries who refuse to fulfil their tour obligations will be fined up to two million dollars, which will be paid to the affected country. The two Test Championship points for a winning series will be awarded to the home country while the side refusing to tour will be deducted two points.

"Countries would be exempt from penalties if fixtures were cancelled due to natural disaster, war or where the safety of players and officials was proven to be at risk," an ICC statement said. "The

new system will be enforced by binding contract, signed by all member countries."

Gray said the decision reflected the priority given to protecting the Test calendar.

"We have to be tough in protecting the integrity of the future tours programme from wilful disruption, hence the introduction of these



MALCOLM GRAY

severe financial and points deduction penalties," he said.

With the decision to move venues, he said even non-Test countries such as Malaysia which possess suitable facilities, may be able to host internationals.

"In agreeing to use independent venues, the board was totally supportive of the countries affected by the recent horrific events and unanimous that every effort should be made to assist them," said Gray.

One of the biggest problems with moving fixtures was how it would affect television coverage and advertising.

"We must enter into discussions with the television right holders," he said.

"The possibility of a rival company getting the rights in a different country is high but here we appeal to the companies on humanitarian grounds."

"For instance, we may have to shift Pakistan's future matches if the current situation persists. As it stands now, nearly all sporting activity in that country is at a standstill."

But Gray said countries would not be allowed to walk away from

commitments under the future tour programmes.

"We will fine the errant countries a minimum of two million dollars. It also depends on the cost factor to the opposing team," he said.

The ICC executive board Friday also discussed deteriorating standards of player behaviour and agreed to a principle of a three of four stage disciplinary system with set penalties for each stage.

The system is expected to be formally approved at an executive meeting next March and will take effect in April.

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## Did U Know?

Australia and West Indies played the first-ever floodlit one-day at Sydney on November 27, 1979.



## ESP

UEFA Champions League Celtic vs FC Porto 9:00 am

English Premier Football League Man United vs Sunderland 11:00 am

Pakistan Tour of New Zealand Pakistan vs New Zealand Third Test, Day Four 3:00 pm

English Premier Football League Bolton Wanderers vs Man United Live at 8:00 pm

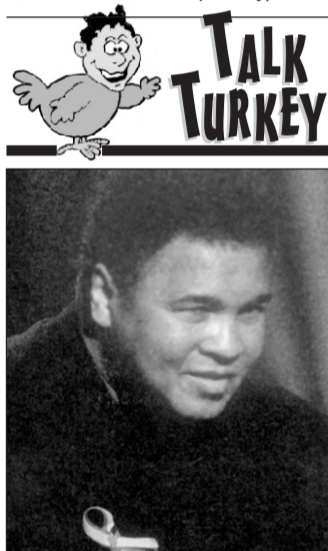
STAR Sports World Cup Soccer Mix 1:00 pm

Tennis Masters Series, Stuttgart 4:00 pm

Primera Liga Highlights at 6:30 pm South Africa Tri Series India vs South Africa Seventh ODI Highlights at 11:00 pm

Primera Liga Villarreal vs Betis Live at 1:00 am (Sunday)

## TALK TURKEY



### Muhammad Ali

(Boxing legend) "A river, lake and stream are different words, but they all contain water; Christianity, Islam and Judaism are different words but they all contain truth."

## Star Whizz Kid COMPETITION 159

Tick the Correct Answers Post to

The Daily Star Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm Oct 26, 2001 and draw shortly afterwards

1. How many runs did Herschelle Gibbs score in the first ODI against Zimbabwe?

115 125  
130

2. Who clinched the Princess Cup tennis title?

Hingis Dokic  
Kournikova

3. Who became the new Australian Cricket Board chief?

Denis Rogers Bob Merriman Geoff Marsh

4. What was the result of the South Africa and Zimbabwe Test series?

2-0 1-0  
1-1

5. Who became Shanghai Open champion?

Cheng Sohuttiler Agassi

Class Roll No

School Address

Phone: (If any)

## Windies' tour of SL is on

REUTERS, London

Next month's West Indies tour of Sri Lanka will go ahead despite concerns over the U.S.-led bombing in Afghanistan, the Caribbean news agency CANA has reported.

The report said Sri Lanka Board of Control chairman Vijaya Malalasekera had assured West Indies Board chairman Wes Hall that the host nation "will undertake measures to guarantee the safety and comfort of the Carl Hooper-led Windies squad."

## India suffer Ramesh blow



REUTERS, New Delhi

Opening batsman Sadagopan Ramesh has ruled himself out of India's three-Test series in South Africa next month because of a back injury.

"I am unlikely to go. It is a lower back injury and I don't think I will recover fully," Ramesh said on Friday.

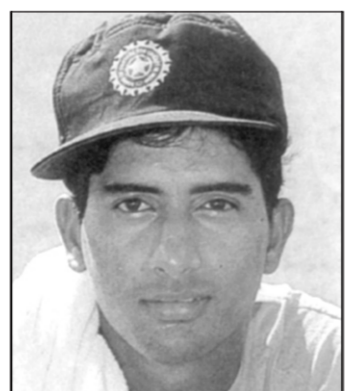
Ramesh's absence means India will go into the tough series against the world's second best side with only one established opener in Shiv Sundar Das.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will also assess the fitness of medium-pace bowlers Zaheer Khan and Ashish Nehra -- all back from injury lay-offs -- before the Test side is picked on Tuesday.

Khan, who is recovering from a foot injury, and Nehra, who was nursing a groin strain, were both sidelined for India's ongoing one-day triangular series in South Africa.

The BCCI secretary Niranjan Shah said the two bowlers and Laxman will have to pass fitness tests on Monday to be considered for selection.

"He will play the Kenya game (on October 24) and the final," said Diwadkar, adding that Laxman will not be asked to prove his fitness again after scoring a match-winning 148 in a premier domestic game



SADAGOPAN RAMESH

earlier this week on his return to action.

Middle-order batsman Hemang Badani has also ruled himself out like Ramesh for the South African Tests because he was not fit, Diwadkar added.

Laxman missed a recent Test series in Sri Lanka because of ligament tear in his right knee and underwent arthroscopy in August. He ruled himself out when the one-day squad was chosen last month because he had not fully recovered. Recent injuries to key players

have undermined the Indian side and the Board conducted fitness tests on the entire one-day squad before the trip to South Africa.

Ramesh, 26, suffered muscle spasms in his lower back while stretching for a catch in the first game of a two-Test series in Zimbabwe in June and subsequently missed the second Test.

The left-hander returned to play in all three games of the Test series in Sri Lanka -- won 2-1 by the hosts -- which ended in the first week of September.

The batsman has been criticised for poor footwork after being dismissed frequently to catches in the slip cordon, but showed better technique in Sri Lanka to score 223 runs in six innings at an average of 37.17.

Ramesh, who has played 19 Tests since making his debut two years ago, has had fitness problems in the past and also missed a two-Test home series against South Africa last year.

"There was severe muscle spasm in the last joint in the back and the disc was hurting. It healed, but got aggravated in the last Test (in Sri Lanka) because the area had not regained enough strength," he said.

The player said doctors had advised him at least three more weeks of rehabilitation. "There is no pain, but there is a chance of my breaking it if I put too much pressure straightaway which can affect my career."

## One-day practice match today

SPORTS REPORTER

A limited-overs practice match between the Naimur Rahman-led Bangladesh Red and Bangladesh Green team of Khaled Masood will be played at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong today.

Players from the national pool and reserve A team will make up both squads for the game, which is part of Bangladesh team's preparation for next month's home series against Zimbabwe.

On Thursday, the Reds won a four-day match at the same venue by 14 runs.

## S Africa 282 for four

AFP, East London

Stand-in opening batsman Boeta Dippenaar hit a career-best 81 as South Africa made 282 for four in their triangular limited-overs day-night match against India at Buffalo Park on Friday.

It was Dippenaar's second successive half-century since he came into the side ahead of Gary Kirsten, who is recovering from a thigh strain.

Dippenaar made 74 not out when South Africa beat Kenya by nine wickets in Kimberley on Sunday.

South Africa made a flying start after winning the toss with Herschelle Gibbs dominating an opening stand of 63 with Dippenaar.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the South Africa innings in the triangular limited overs day-night match against India at Buffalo Park on Friday.

<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>				
H Dippenaar lbw b Srinath	81			
H Gibbs c Sehwa b Agarkar	47			
N Boje run out	18			
J Kallis c Ganguly b Srinath	49			
J Rhodes not out	40			
L Klusener not out	38			
Extras: (lb-4, nb-4, w-1)	9			
Total: (4 wkts in 50 overs)	282			
Fall of wickets: 1-63, 2-93, 3-196, 4-203.				

<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Srinath	10	0	55	2
Agarkar	8	0	64	1
Harbhajia	10	0	39	0
Kumble	10	0	54	0
Sehwa	5	0	37	0