



"He is not a match referee. but an executioner. About Mike Denness after he banned Sachin Tendulkar.



ESPN India vs South Africa Second Test, Day Five Highlights at 3:00 pm UEFA Champions League Arsenal vs Deportivo La Coruna 4:00 pm & Real Madrid vs Sparta Prague 6:30 pm Sportscentre Hindi Sport News Live at 8:30 pm World Cup Soccer Mix 9:00 pm Western Union World Football 10:00 pm Cricket Programming Super Selector 10:30 pm Sportscentre Hindi Sport News 11:30 pm

STAR Sports Australia vs New Zealand Second Test, Day One Live at 5:57 am Sportsline Today Sport News 8:00 am English Premier Football League Chelsea vs Liverpoo 1:30 pm Sportsline Tonight Sport News Live at 8:00 pm Cricket Programming Super Selector 8:30 pm Australia vs New Zealand Second Test, day One Highlights at 9:30 pm Sportsline Tonight Sport News 10:30 pm Harsha Online Cricket Talk Show

Uneasy win for Zim

boundaries

Cricket

ABDULLAH-AL-MAHMUD. Cta

Zimbabwe scored an unconvincing victory ahead of the Coca-Cola oneday series when the visitors squeezed past Chittagong Division by 13 runs in a limited-overs practice match at the MA Aziz Stadium here vesterday

Fresh after their eight-wicket victory in the second Test on Monday, the visitors scored only 162 runs and the local selection replied with 149.

Although Zimbabwe were without Grant Flower and injured pace bowler Heath Streak, their meagre total fell short of the expectation from their still strong batting line-up that included premier batsman Andy Flower and captain Stuart Carlisle Carlisle won the toss and decided to bat on an apparently difficult wicket.

But it was the home team bowlers who exploited the conditions against their mighty opponents.

Young paceman Tareq made early inroads by removing opener Trevor Gripper and Andy Flower cheaply Tareq struck with the fifth ball of the innings when he had Trevor

Gripper caught by wicketkeeper Golam Mortuza for two. But the right-arm medium pacer would relish his next wicket when he clean bowled Andy Flower for four. Carlisle stayed at the wicket for a while to make 21. The tourists were

at one stage reeling at 49 for five. However, they recovered with Ervine and Marillier putting on 79 runs for the sixth wicket. Man-of-the-match Ervine scored gutsy 56 off 66 balls. He hit four boundaries and a six. Marillier was also impressive with a 54-ball 40 that included a couple of fours and a

Occasional bowler Ehsanul Haq mopped up the lower order with a haul of three for 26. The local selection led by former

national captain Minhazul Abedin failed to get their innings off to a good start They lost four wickets for 30 runs

against a hostile Travis Friend, who took the first three wickets. A fine 59 by Masum kept the

home side in a hunt but he ran out of SCOREBOARD

partners and was eventually out in Scoreboard of the limited-overs the last over. He struck seven exhibition match betweer Zimbabwe and Chittagong Division Minhaz disappointed the home at the MA Aziz Stadium or Wednesday:

replaced	ZIIVIDADVVE					
in Brian	Ebrahim run ou	ıt			1	
	Gripper c Murtaza b Tareq				2	
	Carlisle c Sharif b Sabbir				21	
	A Flower b Tareq				4	
	Wishart b Shafiuddin				11	
	Marillier c Masum b Ehsanul				40	
	Ervine c Masum b Ehsanul				56	
	Nkala b Ehsanul				4	
	P Strang not out				8	
	Friend c Murtaza b Sharif				2	
	Olonga run out				1	
	Extras: (b-4, lb-3, nb-1, w-1))	9	
	Total: (all out in 45.3 overs)			1	162	
	Fall of wickets: 1/2, 2/23, 3/29, 4/42,					
	5/49, 6/125, 7/141, 8/153, 9/157					
	BOWLER	Ó	M	R	w	
	Sharif	9	2	14	1	
	Tareq	8	0	33	2	
n one-day	Shafiuddin	7	2	18	2 1	
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, in which	Sanwar	6	0	20	0	
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rilliantly,	CHITTAGONG	DIVISI	ON			
he-match	Hakim cAFlower b Friend				0	
and.	er b Frie	nd	d 10			
a break	SEE PAGE 1					

Zimbabwe will enjoy before the first ODI starts at the same venue on Friday

wickets and fielded b

earned him a man-of-th

award worth Taka 10 thousa



PHOTO: STAR A GRAND CLASH: Country's two Grand Masters Ziaur Rahman (L) of Biman and Niaz Murshed of Titas Club during their sixth round engagement of the Mercantile Bank First Division Chess League on Wednesday.

Clash of GMs Zia tames Murshed

SPORTS REPORTER Bangladesh Biman crossed a major hurdle in their quest for the top tag when the national flag carriers humbled holders Titas Club in the sixth round of the Mercantile Bank First Division Chess League on Wednesday.

The clash of two titans at the Bangladesh Chess Federation auditorium turned into a lop-sided affair when Biman romped to a 4-0 victory. With this win, Biman raised their collection to 21, 4.5 points more than their nearest rivals Sonali Bank and Kamalapur Samaj Kalyan and Krira Sangha

Ziaur Rahman set the course of a convincing victory when he defeated Niaz Murshed in the battle of Grand Masters. Reefat-bin Sattar, Abdullah-al

Rakib and Enamul Hossain Rajib also won their respective boards. The defeat meant Titas slipped to the third position with 16 points.

Sonali Bank and Kamalapur SKKS jointly occupied the second position, netting 16.5 points each. The Bankers thrashed Crescent Club 4-0 while Kamalapur edged

Nakhalpara Jubo Kalyan Sangha by 2.5-1.5 points. Bangladesh Ansars drew with

Farashganj Sporting Club. In other results, Leonine Chess

Club blanked Bangsal Progoti Samaj Kalyan Sangha 4-0 and Narayanganj District Chess Players Association defeated Anirban Schoo Chess

2.5-1.5. While Dhaka University Chess Club and Mohakhali Prodip Sangha scored an identical 3-1 win against Anu Memorial Club and Dhaka Daba Ghar respectively.

Shoaib evades trouble

REUTERS, Islamabad

Fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar has escaped disciplinary action over a clash with Sri Lanka's Mahela Jayawardene during the Sharjah Champions' Trophy final, a Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) official said.

A member of the PCB disciplinary committee, which met in Lahore on Monday to discuss the incident said no action would be taken against Akhtar. Akhtar exchanged words with

Javawardene during the game on November 4, won by Pakistan by five wickets, after the batsman hit his first ball for a six.

BEYOND THE BOUNDARY Of performances, selection & assorted food for thought

Cricket

SHAKIL KASEM One would have thought, that the post-mortem of the recently concluded Bangladesh-Zimbabwe Test series, would have at the very least addressed the obvious: to wit. whether or not Bangladesh had done anything of note, to dispel the guestion marks that have hung over the Test status accorded to it. Instead, media hype and hoopla have centred around selection issues, with selectors coming under fire, and not players, who had to put it mildly, underperformed at every level of the game.

Rain saved Bangladesh from an ignominy that seemed to be Bangladesh's by right, in the first Test. A comical and predictably suicidal decision by the Bangladesh skipper to field after winning the toss at Chittagong, ensured Zimbabwe would be handed the series on a platter. Yet, one would be hasty in writing off Bangladesh's efforts in the field; the players are up against the big boys of international cricket, and it will take more than their fair

share of knocks and bruises to come to terms with life at this level of the game. What is important for all concerned is to make certain that the team, its management and the countless legions of cricket fans in Bangladesh are made to see the facts as they now exist. It is unfortunate that the media

has taken upon itself to be overly critical of the selectorial decisions that have been taken with regard to the team, and the exclusion of the present captain from future matches.

A selector's job is a thankless one, made all the more difficult because armchair critics always feel that only they can choose the ideal team. Under the circumstances, given the present crop of players, the selectors have done a commendable job, taking bold, as well as innovative decisions, at times. But at the end of the day, the selectors do not go out in the middle to score runs or get wickets. This is where the players, the captain even more so, have to stand up and be counted, and perform! If you do not, you perish. It is a simple, yet cruel fact of a cricketer's life.

Sadly, no amount of media sympathy can change this scenario. Gone are the days when a Bangladesh cricketer was paid Tk 25 a day for his trouble of taking the field wearing the Bangladesh cap. At Tk 60,000 a month should make one more accountable for his performance than at any time in our

cricket's history. The media needs to play a constructive role at this very critical juncture of our nation's cricketing efforts. It was therefore unfortunate to learn from the Daily Star which

attributed the chief selector quotes to Bengali dailies, that the present skipper has no future as a bowler, and that he was just rolling his arm over. The press conference in Chittagong was widely attended, certainly the Daily Star must have been there! Why take recourse to borrowed quotes? It is with some degree of shock

and amazement that I also learned from one Bengali daily, that 2 journalists were so mesmerised by the removal of the ex-captain from his position in the team, that they actually broke down in tears in his hotel SEE PAGE 15

R'rine keeps SL in check

stopped play at tea on an eventful

opening day at the Asgiriya Stadium

Hashan Tillakaratne was

unbeaten on 60 and Thilan

Samaraweera was on four.

Cricket

AFP, Kandy

Leg-spinner Dinanath Ramnarine prevented Sri Lanka from feasting on a depleted West Indian attack with a triple strike in the second cricket Test here on Wednesday. Ramnarine finished with 3-54 as

Mervyn Dillon and Colin Stuart early in the day. the hosts groped to 193-5 when rain



here.

Stuart was debarred from bowling by English umpire John Hampshire for the rest of the innings after sending down two full toss beamers at Sri Lankan captain Sanath Jayasuriya in the day's fifth

The tourists were indebted to the 26-year-old Ramnarine for putting Dillon, who retired due to abdomthe hosts under pressure despite inal pains in his fourth over, returned losing the services of pacemen to bowl just five more in the postlunch session

Ramnarine's biggest success came just before the tea interval when he took a return catch to get rid of the free-stroking Mahela Javawardene for 88.

The stylish Jayawardene dominated the thin West Indian bowling attack with nine boundaries and a six during a fifth-wicket stand of 116 with Tillakaratne

The stand came after four wickets, including that of Jayasuriya, had fallen for 53 in the morning session.

The tourists did not miss their pacemen as Ramnarine removed Russel Arnold and Kumar Sangakkara in four balls before

lunch after the hosts had elected to

when opener Marvan Atapattu was

19th duck in Test cricket

Sri Lanka got off to a shaky start

Javasuriva was surprised by

extra bounce to be caught by Chris

Gayle at third slip off fast bowler

Cricket ahead.

off the tour.

suspended one-match ban after

Newcomer Virender Sehwag

India rigid on Mike removal

support "virtually any action" to match fee and banned for one Test ensure that the final Test goes for showing dissent, attempting to intimidate the umpire and abusive

crowd. He made 12 before offering a simple return catch to leg-spinner **ZIMBABWE** Paul Strang, who has injured Zimbabwe capta

Murphy for the three-match Ervine's all-round show. he scored a half-century,



AFP, New Delhi India will not back away from its demand to remove former England cricket captain Mike Denness as match referee for the third Test against South Africa, a senior official

said on Wednesday one of the finest batsmen in the "There is no question of making a compromise," Niranjan Shah, history of the game, was fined 75 per secretary of the Board of Control for cent of his match fee and given a Cricket in India (BCCI) said. The International Cricket Council (ICC) is expected to rule on India's plea later on Wednesday amidst

being accused of interfering with the ball speculation that the Indians could was also fined 75 per cent of his boycott the third Test at Centurion Park from Friday if their demand was

not met. But the sport's world governing body seems unlikely to buckle, especially after deciding last month at its executive board meeting in Kuala Lumpur to enforce tougher penalties for one-field discipline

The BCCI wanted Denness to be removed for imposing fines and penalties on six Indian cricketers. including superstar Sachin Tendulkar, for various offences during the second Test at Port Elizabeth on Tuesday. BCCI president Jagmohan

Dalmiya was also unbending on the issue and his tough line raised concerns over the third Test.

Dalmiya, himself a former head of the ICC, said India wanted Denness removed or his bans reviewed. The censuring of Tendulkar in particular has caused outrage in India, where he is revered.

Dalmiya had said that India would even accept a South African match referee for the final test if a neutral referee was not available. India's call to have Denness

removed appeared to find backing from the South African cricket authorities. "We have a very good relation-

ship with India and want the Test series to go ahead," Gerald Majola, chief executive officer of the United Cricket Board (UCB) of South Africa, was quoted as saying by the Press Trust of India "We have been talking to the ICC

and the Indian cricket board about the demand that match referee Mike Denness be replaced. "I flew back to Johannesburg

from Port Elizabeth with the Indian team and they are all keen to play in the third Test. So I hope the controversy surrounding the second Test will be overcome as soon as possible," Majola said. UCB communications director

Bronwyn Williams said they would

Wilkinson was quoted on the language

cricket.org website as saying that Indian captain Sourav Ganguly support would include replacing was given a suspended ban from Denness if that was the only way to one Test and two one-day internapersuade the Indian team not to call tionals for failing to control his play-Tendulkar, widely regarded as

Three other players, Harbhajan Singh, Deep Dasgupta and Shiv Das, were fined 75 per cent of their match fees and given suspended one-match bans for showing dissent and attempting to intimidate the umpire by charging.

Their ban was suspended until the end of January next year.



HOTO: INTERNET

A protester plays the role of English match referee Mike Denness (R) while a young boy plays Indian cricketing idol Sachin Tendulkar during a demonstration in Calcutta on Wednesday.

the same over, Wasim Akram had to

step in to defuse the situation. "Basically we considered the fact that the match referee in Sharjah, Dennis Lindsay, did not even reprimand him and later Akhtar also publicly apologised to Sri Lankan batsman Mahela Jayawardene for causing him any hurt in the heat of

the moment," the committee member said. The panel's decision, which has yet to be announced officially by the board, clears up one of the clouds hanging over the bowler's career.

He has been reported for a suspect bowling action twice this year, the first time during a one day match in New Zealand in March and again during the Sharjah tournament.

A repeat in the next few months could see him facing a 12-month ban.

Akhtar was banned from the game in November 1999 after he was reported for throwing in the third test against Australia in Perth. He returned to the side a month

later after the International Cricket Council (ICC) reversed the decision.

The ICC has told Shoaib must work on his bowling action with former West Indian fast bowler Michael Holding, who will submit a report by February.

decision, saying medical experts have already ruled that Shoaib has an unusually flexible arm which gives the impression of an irregular bowling action.

The Pakistani bowler, nicknamed the "Rawlpindi Express", has been vying for the title of the world's fastest bowler in recent seasons with Australian Brett Lee.

Second defeat for U-19 cricketers

Bangladesh Under-19 side suffered their second defeat in a oneday match in Adelaide yesterday. They lost to Tasmania Eleven

runs in 25.5 overs. reached double figure, scored 19.

In reply, Tasmania reached the Hobart during a practice session yesterday. Australia and target losing four wickets in 16.1 overs.

Sri Lankan Hashan Tillekeratne is about to execute a square-cut during the opening day's play of the second Test against West Indies at Kandy on Wednesday.

Steve Waugh has challenged New Zealand to beat his

world champion Australian team over five days in the

second cricket Test which gets underway here Thursday.

gallant Kiwis in last week's first Brisbane Test, want to

see how New Zealand measure up against them without

last-day declarations by Waugh and Stephen Fleming,

Australia, who held on for a dramatic draw against the

The thrilling denouement only came about after bold

Australia's Justin Langer tests the Bellerive Oval wicket in

New Zealand meet in the second Test here from Thursday.

Pedro Collins after contributing 16. PHOTO: AFP Sri Lanka's woes continued as Sangakkara inside-edged a SEE PAGE 15 Beat us if you can: Waugh

PHOTO: INTERNET

which set New Zealand with the task of scoring 284 runs to win off 57 overs.

Waugh Wednesday reminded the Kiwis that almost winning a rain-marred Test match through declarations was far different than outplaying his champion team over five days.

"We had two days of rain in Brisbane and realistically if it wasn't for the rain. New Zealand would have been chasing four or five hundred in the last innings on a turning track and I would have backed our bowlers to win that," he said.

"I think we had the better of the game but New Zealand came back well on the last day."

It was Australia's first draw in 24 Tests. They've won 20 and lost three of their previous 23 Tests and last had a draw in September 1999, against Sri Lanka in Colombo.

Waugh won't be so forgiving this time and as long as rain does not intervene again he is expected to go for a comprehensive win over New Zealand with only the Perth Test left, starting November 30.

Fleming took some heart from his team's fighting performance on the final day of the Brisbane Test.

The New Zealand skipper wants the Kiwis to earn their position of dominance rather than have it handed to them through sporting declarations.

"We're a pretty cocky bunch," Fleming said Wednesday. "If we can ruffle some feathers, which I think we've done a little bit, our development (as a side) will be a lot quicker.

'We did that the other day (in Brisbane) -- we saw Steve Waugh under pressure and I liked it.

"The only thing that nags me is we don't want to do it through declarations, we want to do it through playing

"The greatest thing for me is to set up an opportunity to win on the fifth day having played good cricket over the first four days

"We haven't put that together yet and that's an exciting prospect for us."

But New Zealand's task has been made considerably more difficult with injuries that have forced two of their fast bowlers, Dion Nash (stomach) and Shayne O'Connor (knee). home since the first Test

Their places are expected to go to inexperienced pacemen Daryl Tuffey and Chris Martin.

That will increase the burden on spearhead Chris Cairns and left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori

The Australians have named an SEE PAGE 15

Cricket

AFP, Hobart

a contrived finish.

BSS, Dhaka

by six wickets. Winning the toss Bangladesh

batted first and managed only 63 Gazi, the only batsman who

The PCB is challenging the